



## ***Introducing Dr. W. Douglas Hood, Jr.***

**DR. W. DOUGLAS  
HOOD, JR.**

*as Senior Pastor, Head of Staff*



**D**r. W. Douglas “Doug” Hood, Jr. is a 52 year old native of Atlanta, Georgia but has celebrated many significant “waypoints” of life in Florida. He completed high school at Seminole High School in Seminole, Florida and is a 1982 graduate of Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. He married the former Grace Cameron in 1987 in Tampa where her father served as pastor of a Presbyterian congregation. From 1989-1994 Doug served at McLeod Memorial Presbyterian Church in Bartow, Florida where his children, Nathanael and Rachael, were born.

Doug completed his Masters of Divinity in 1987 from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. In 1994 Doug moved to Irving, Texas as Head of Staff of Woodhaven Presbyterian Church for six years. He received his Doctor of Ministry in 2011 from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. His doctoral dissertation is titled, Faith Journey: A Strategy for Nurturing Discipleship at Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church. From his dissertation, Doug completed and

published a small group curriculum, Faith Journey: a Pathway for Traveling with Christ which is currently being used in three congregations in the Presbytery of Philadelphia. He comes to us from Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church, New Britain, PA where he has been Head of Staff for twelve years.

His sermons and essays on the art of preaching have appeared in Lectionary Homiletics, Biblical Preaching Journal, Preaching: Word & Witness and Preaching Great Texts where he served on the editorial board for three years.

Dr. Hood has volunteered on Philadelphia Presbytery Financial, Nominating and Administrative Committees and completed the Strategic Plan in his present church, including a 1.2 million renovation.

*“It is my hope and desire to serve a church that is caught up in the vision and energy of the Great Commission of our Lord. Such a church will be populated with people who treat God as a tangible presence in their daily lives and have an urgency to see their experience of God multiplied within the church and the community. A clearly identified pathway will support this vision and intention for moving persons from church members who demand privileges to lifelong learners of Jesus Christ committed to continuing his work on earth.”*

*“The primary challenge for such a church is to come alongside people who are losing their orientation as God’s people and help them become aware of their need for intentional spiritual growth. I am convinced that as churches recover intentional processes for personal spiritual formation, people will experience a recovery of wonder, adventure and excitement. It will be those changed lives that will provide the church with a fresh orientation to the purposes of God.”*

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# Mack's Message

*by Rev. Dr. Mack Sigmon*

*Interim Pastor*

## ***Goodbyes and Hellos***

This is my last opportunity to speak to you through the newsletter as your Interim Pastor. I want to begin by expressing my thankfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ for giving me the chance to serve you in this capacity. The work here has been joyous. First Presbyterian of Delray Beach is a warm and loving congregation, filled with wonderful Christians who have a heart for the worship and ministry of Christ.

I want to also express my appreciation to the wonderful staff that has been an incredible source of information and support. As I have said to many others, this is the best staff I have ever had the privilege of leading.

There are many things about being a part of this church family that I will miss. I will miss the incredible music, and the wonderful talents of Don, Jim, and the choir. I will miss the members of my Bible study class, the Men's Fellowship, and the Holly House ladies. I will miss working with the gifted leaders on the Board of Trustees, the Session, and the Board of Deacons. And while this may sound bizarre, I will also miss Atlantic Avenue – not from the perspective of driving, but from the perspective of all of the wonderful shops and restaurants. One does not lack from something to do in Delray Beach.

I also want to say a special word about Rev. Aaron and Rev. Jo. I have never known two finer ministers. They are humble, dedicated and talented servants of God's word. Both of them give to this church entirely from their hearts. I cannot be more thankful to God for having the privilege of sharing ministry with them. We have worked together as a team, and their contributions to the success of this interim period cannot be measured.

I have made many wonderful friends in the year that I have served First Presbyterian. I know that I will keep these friends for life. It has been an honor to break bread with you, to pray with you, to teach and learn from you, to laugh with you, to cry with you, and to share the work of our Lord Jesus Christ in this corner of God's kingdom.

While I will miss all of you, I rejoice in the wonderful future that God has in store for First Presbyterian. Dr. Doug will bless your church in unimaginable ways. He brings experiences and gifts that will exactly fit the needs of this congregation in the time to come. He is a humble man of God with a wonderful family. I pray that you will listen to him and follow his leadership in the time to come. Most importantly, I hope that you will pray for him. The importance of prayer in support of a minister's call cannot be underestimated. I know you will welcome him and his family with the same love and joy that you welcomed me.

I also ask for your prayers as Amy, Patti and I move forward into the next place where God would call us. At the time of this writing, I don't yet know where that will be, but the Lord has always found a place for me to serve. Both the joy and the sorrow of interim ministry are the "goodbyes" and the "hellos" that are a part of this task, but there is no greater satisfaction than knowing that one's work has helped a church in a time of need.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Church Staff

Mack Sigmon, D.Min.  
*Interim Pastor*

Theodore A. Bush, Ph.D.  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Aaron Janklow, M.Div.  
*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*

Jen Buce  
*Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Nancy Fine  
*Office Manager*

Christine Davis  
*Accountant*

Paula Hare  
*Secretary*

Aaron Strippel  
*Head Custodian*

Rita Avery  
*Custodian*

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## The Spire

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*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.**

# "Deacons' Corner"

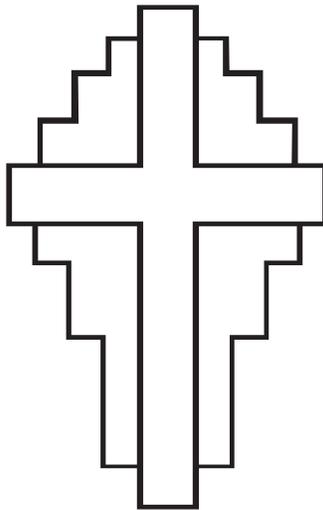
*by Siena Del Mastro*

After the long-awaited process in which the Deacons' Scholarship Committee reviewed applications for an acceptable applicant, high school senior Maxx Esteves was selected to receive the scholarship check from the committee.

Having grown up with Maxx through many enjoyable years of Youth Group, this was a pleasant surprise. The first thing I ever remembered about Maxx was how he spelt his name with two "x's." Thinking he was joking, I blew it off as just a practical joke. However, in time I realized he wasn't joking and just had to go with the flow.

I also remember the first trip that I ever went on with Maxx was to Faith in 3D which was a youth

conference for Christians located in Orlando. My parents chaperoned the trip and it was absolutely a blast. On the way back from the trip I remember my dad messing around with Maxx and his brother and his gaining the nickname of Maxxilicious.



Aside from my positive views of Maxx, here is just a little bit about him. For his high school career he attended Atlantic High School and was a part of the tennis team. His senior year was so full of tennis that I barely saw him at youth group; he really excelled at the sport.

Starting this summer, Maxx will be attending Florida State University in Tallahassee and majoring in Mechanical Engineering; just the sound of that makes my brain hurt, but good for Maxx!

Hopefully Maxx will make his way in the world, have great success and learn from his mistakes on the way. As a congregation, keep Maxx Esteves in your prayers as he journeys out into the world. ❖



*by Jen Buce*  
*Children's Ministry Coordinator*

## "Thank You"



As we come to the end of Sunday School Season I would like to thank all of the leaders who helped throughout the year. Without your commitment to our programs and teaching the children about God's work, we would not have been such a success. Each week, the children look forward to discovering all the great and wonderful things God does for us. I look forward to September when we start our classes and see all our leaders in the room once again! We always have Bible Bunch and Worship Hour Sunday School during the 10 a.m. worship service if you would like to continue through the summer months. ❖

*Continued from Page 2*

In closing, I want to share with you a passage from the Book of Acts. Paul has been working with the church in Ephesus for several years, but now his time is finished, and he is moving on to his next task, which will take place in Jerusalem. Paul meets with the elders of the Ephesian church on the beach as their ship is about to leave. There are tears at his parting, but Paul leaves them with this powerful admo-

nation: "Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the Church of God that He obtained with the blood of His own Son...and now I commend you to God and to the message of His grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified...in all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak,

remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

You have given me much more than you have received from me, and I will always carry your love in my heart. May God bless and keep you always. ❖



# Holly House Ground Breaking

**O**n Sunday, May 20th, following the morning worship service, a groundbreaking for the new Holly House was held. Participating in the service were representatives of the construction company, Mouw Construction, and the architectural firm, Currie Sowards Aguila Architects. Also speaking that morning were Mary Jane Sickel, representing the Holly House ladies and Bob Teninga, Chair of the Property Committee. Rev. Garnett led the prayer. ❖



# Remembrances

by Jen Buce

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Three years ago I started my journey with the youth in Virginia on the mission trip. It was one of the best experiences in my life; doing God's work, meeting people from other churches and forming bonds with our youth. It's hard not to form bonds with them especially when you are sleeping at their feet on an air mattress and told you are in their personal space. Now, the room was extremely overcrowded with air mattresses, but I was in Nicole's personal space even though I had a view of her feet. This did give me the right to her magazines only to discover they were her sister's,

Ashley. This was the beginning of our relationship; feet and magazines! The twins and I had great conversations about our families and at one point I believe I had a room in their home. Upon our return from Virginia, I immediately became a permanent fixture on Sunday nights, and continued to travel with the youth on as many trips as possible. I learned that Molly had a nonstop dry sense of humor, doesn't like contact sports much and is very picky about her food. The best thing Molly taught me was how to laugh at myself. Miles and Ryan are hard workers, and ever so helpful. Miles, always the jokester but when it came to work on the sites he knew how to get the work done. Miles always looked out for all of our girls on the trips and made sure they were safe. Ryan, I loved your dancing

in Jamaica, how you called me "Yen" and when everyone else was asleep in the car while we were traveling in Virginia you stayed awake to make sure we got to the hotel safely knowing that I was tired too. Miles and Ryan you are truly young gentlemen. Kendall, in Jamaica, somehow one of the children mistakenly took me as your mother. It became our inside joke, but sometimes I feel like a second mother to you. I will miss talking to you almost every day!

Each of you holds a very special place in my heart and I will cherish all of the memories we have made in the last three years. As each of you take your next step in life, remember the strong faith base and love of God that you have built and you can do anything! ❖



## Church Improvement

by Barbara Vanderkay

Many of the Holly House workers have left for cooler climes, but there is still a shifting group of regulars around during the summer. It has been decided that the first and third Tuesdays a Coffee Klatch will be held in Fellowship Hall each month at 9:30 a.m. We want to keep in touch and maintain our great sense of belonging, while we await the completion of our new home. Please come to see your old friends just for fun, no busy fingers required! ❖



# Our Graduating Seniors



*by Rev. Aaron Janklow*  
*Associate Pastor*

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors. This is a large class with eight seniors being active in youth group or other activities within the church. Each of you has added something unique to our group and I'm thankful for all of you and your participation in the life of our youth group and church. We've shared a lot of experiences together. There was the Norfolk Mission Trip where we worked on different home repair projects; our trip two years ago to Montreat; the Jamaica Mission Trip, which was an awesome experience, when we went to a rural part of the country and worked hard on multiple projects; last summer's trip to Montreat, when we had so many youth that we had to get a bigger house, and all the stories we returned with from that trip. And there were also the Disney Night of Joy Trips, Lock-Ins, different youth events, and of course, weekly youth group activities. I hope that in all of these experiences you have felt God and the important role faith has, can, and will play in your lives. Just as the theme for Youth Sunday this past year proclaims, "God is with you always, anytime, anywhere." Please know this, and also know that no matter where you go, you have the support of this church and many people rooting for you to do great things! ❖



## Youth Lock-In Recap

*by Rev. Aaron Janklow*  
*Associate Pastor*

On April 28-29, we had our Spring Youth Lock-In here at the church. It was a ton of fun. We started the evening with a photo scavenger that took five teams across Delray Beach searching for the photos that matched the clues they were given. After a narrow victory, we went bowling, which is always fun. After two hours of bowling (some people using bumper lanes), we returned to the church. We distributed almost a hundred glow in the dark necklaces and walked down to the beach where we played glow in the dark frisbee, soccer, and tag. We must have been quite a sight! After having a great time on the beach, we went back to the church for devotions and prayer around the pool, and had some brief time to relax before going to bed. In the morning, the youth had breakfast, went to the Reason (Sunday School for youth), and to the church worship service. We had a great group during a busy time of the year, and had a blast. ❖

## Celebration 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:

Betty Cooper – April 30, 2012

Joyce Phelps – May 14, 2012



## Remember the Church When Estate Planning

Our Endowment and Remembrance Funds are two excellent opportunities for your giving consideration, be it your will, stocks, or as a named beneficiary of an insurance policy. This financially wise method of stewardship helps ensure the long-term financial stability of the church and provides a planned means for the church to continue its role in the lives of our members and those to whom we reach out, in our community and beyond. For more information on long-term giving, call the church office (276-6338). ❖

# STEPHEN MINISTERS:

*by David Fellows*

## Memories of Berry College

It was a chance meeting when my daughter, Katie, and I bumped into a friend of hers at Furman while making the college rounds 15 years ago. Her friend's mother, a child psychologist, spoke of how impressed she was with Berry College and especially how well grounded the students there were. Although it was well off our planned route, we made a u-turn for a visit. As we turned onto the entrance to the campus, I saw a herd of deer grazing in a field to my left and I thought we might be in the right place. As we drove around the campus I noticed the college's motto chiseled in granite high on one of the buildings, "Not to be Ministered Unto, but to Minister." My feelings were confirmed. Fortunately for me, so were Katie's. Little did we know how prophetic that motto would be for Katie!

Berry College, located outside Rome, Georgia on 26,000+ acres is the largest continuous college campus in the world. It stands as a testament to the dream, desire and determination of one woman, Martha Berry (1866 – 1942), to educate the children in rural Northwestern Georgia. The school at Possum Trot where Martha began teaching still stands on the campus. Miss Berry was a devout Episcopalian. Through her tireless fund-raising the school expanded and in 1930 four year Berry College emerged, founded in the Christian tradition.

The values that guided Martha Berry live on in the college today. The religious life is strongly emphasized. Faculty members and their families live on campus, so as to have closer contact with the students. A high percentage of its 2,000 students impact the lives of youth by going on to become teachers. Around 90% of students work on campus during their student life. Students develop a sense of personal stewardship towards the college. Alumni participation in the life of the college is extremely strong. Academic achievement is high. Berry's regional reputation is so strong that

they don't require much of a national recruiting effort. Every day of the year the beauty of God's creation greets you at every turn. (While the student/faculty ratio is about 12:7, the student/deer ratio is around 1:1).

Martha Berry's house, Oak Hill, and the Martha Berry Museum are just off the campus and open to student-docent led tours all week long. Framed and hung on Miss Martha Berry's bedroom wall is the 23rd Psalm. I had never seen it presented in such a way, and, as I read it, I could easily envision her teaching the principles behind it to her students. I hope you appreciate it:

### *Twenty-Third Psalm*

**The Lord is my shepherd; (*Guidance*)**

**I shall not want. (*Provision*)**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
(*Peace*)**

**He leadeth me beside the still waters. (*Harmony*)**

**He restoreth my soul; (*Healing*)**

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
(*Progress*)**

**For His Name's sake. (*Purpose*)**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, (*Discord*)**

**I will fear no evil: (*Confidence*)**

**For Thou art with me; (*Protection*)**

**Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.  
(*Instruction*)**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the  
presence of mine enemies: (*Supply*)**

**Thou anointest my head with oil; (*Consecration*)**

**My cup runneth over. (*Abundance*)**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all  
the days of my life; (*Loving Care*)**

**And I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.  
(*The Consciousness of Love*)**

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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## Sunday Morning Worship Services

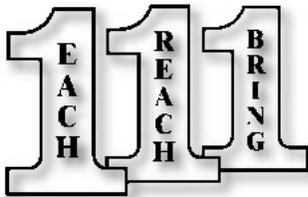
**10 a.m.**

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

### Church School

Children's Worship Hour Sunday School  
10 a.m.

Youth Fellowship 5 p.m.



**DR. MACK SIGMON'S** last Sunday with us, as our Interim Minister, will be Sunday, June 10th. The Session has planned a reception in Fellowship Hall following the worship service to honor and thank Dr. Mack for his ministry to us this past year.

A monetary *"Thank You"* gift will be presented to Dr. Mack at the reception. If you wish to contribute to this Farewell Thank You, please send your gift to the church office or place it in the offering plate, in a plain envelope, marked to the attention of Christine Davis, Accountant.

Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach and "Gift for Dr. Mack" written on the memo line. Your gift is not a contribution to the church and is not tax deductible. Please do not combine your gift with any other contribution to the church.

Please be sure to attend the reception in Fellowship Hall following the worship service on June 10th to wish Dr. Mack a fond farewell and much success in his next assignment.

