



# Per Capita

*(about that blue envelope in your box of weekly offering envelopes)*

In case you are wondering what the blue envelope near the beginning of your 2010 offering envelope box is for, you are not the only one. "Per Capita" is the assessment each congregation pays for each church member recorded on their membership rolls. It is assessed by our denomination (Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.) to cover the required administrative expenses to operate the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly offices of each judicatory. These expenses are rounded out to \$35 per member for 2010.

Since the Per Capita is included in calculating our operating budget, not everyone contributes extra to this source. Others prefer to do so in order to help ease a little of the financial burden that this places upon the church budget. A little extra giving does make a difference when our congregation's total Per Capita assessment is \$25,196. Thank you to those who choose to help. ❖



# 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. ❖



# Happy New Year!

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH OF DELRAY BEACH

**The Annual Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 31st immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service.**

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# Reflections...

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

## "Resolutions for the New Year"

As I write this, the old year has not yet waved goodbye. Like an older relative at a family gathering who gets up to leave and then stands to visit for another half-hour, the old year is just beginning to stand up. By the time that you receive this in the mail, the old year will have departed. We will have waved our good-byes to it as it walks out of sight and embrace the new year with all of its hopes and possibilities.

Time and circumstances alone will dictate whether or not this new year will be a good one. While we may agree that all precious blessings come from God, we may not agree that all of the situations that occur in our lives also come from God. What we probably can agree upon is that God will be with us to help us as we make our way through whatever circumstances we must face.

God gives us strength when we are too weak to keep on going. God holds us up when we stumble over obstacles that, even knowingly, we may have put in our way. God sheds His own tears through our personal tragedies and rejoices whenever we have cause to be genuinely happy.



At the beginning of every new year, we tend to ponder what the coming year will bring? Will it bring good news or sad news? Will it bring unexpected blessings beyond what we can imagine? Or, will it bring new challenges that we must prepare to face?

We also might ask ourselves, will this new year bring us closer to God or create some type of separation between ourselves and God? If it is the latter, who will have created this separation, God or us? I tend to think that we are the ones who create the separation. But, I also believe that as much as God may want to bridge the divide that we have created, we must do some things to bridge whatever gap remains between ourselves and God.

When we make our resolutions for the new year, maybe we should think about some of the ways that we can bridge any divide that exists between ourselves and God? Perhaps we should begin by trying to bridge whatever gaps exist between ourselves and other people. Who knows, maybe such gaps are not as wide as we once thought them to be. Have a happy, peaceful and joy-filled New Year in 2010. ❖

## 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*

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**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.**

# 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) ❖

## Summer Youth Opportunities

by Rev. Aaron Janklow



Most of you already know the importance youth mission trips have played in my life. These trips provide valuable opportunities to see other parts of the country or world, and to see and experience a way of life different from our own. This summer, high school students and youth aged fourteen and older are invited to join us on our **Norfolk, VA Mission Trip, June 19-27, 2010**. We will be joining three other churches, one of which is First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, and among us there will be approximately 80 youth and advisors. This trip will give these youth the opportunity to serve people in the Norfolk area as we do home rehab work. The amazing thing that I've experienced myself and seen in others, is that while working hard on these projects, it is all incredible fun. We will work hard to serve others, but in the process we will form friendships with those we are working with, get to know youth

from around the country, grow closer as a youth group, and ultimately grow closer to God in the process. Sign-ups end on Tuesday, January 12th.

Another great opportunity for high school youth is the **Montreat Youth Conference, July 24-Aug. 1**. Join hundreds of other Presbyterian high school students for this week long conference in beautiful Montreat, North Carolina. Ask people who have gone to one of these conferences and they'll tell you that this is a wonderful experience. Each day we will hear from speakers whose message is relevant and applicable to our everyday lives, worship with great music, enjoy times of reflection in small groups, and have time to hang out and have fun as a group. Sign-ups for this trip end Sunday, January 10th.

In addition to these great opportunities, we will also be having a middle school mission trip. This trip is currently in the works, and I will let you know the details as soon as it is finalized. This will be a two night, three day mission trip within driving distance, and will serve as an introduction to mission.

To sign up or learn more, contact me, Rev. Aaron Janklow, at 276-6338 ext. 13 or aaronjanklow@covad.net. I hope you can join us for these events! ❖

# From "MBS" to "FPC"

## *My Spiritual Journey*

*by Leslie Horenburger*

"MBS", short for Most Blessed Sacrament, was the name of my first church, a Catholic church. During my eight years at MBS elementary school I attended mass and studied my catechism every school day memorizing all of the answers to questions like "Who is God?" Nuns in full habits outnumbered the lay teachers in those days. These dedicated women surely provided us with a good education along with some unforgettable memories like the time my first grade teacher slipped on a pencil and broke her leg. Those long full skirts must have obscured her vision, I guess something like the driver of an 18 wheeler not seeing a motorcycle at his bumper. To this day I make a point of picking up any cylindrical object lying on the ground...I suspect I've saved a lot of people from broken legs!

Of course, attendance at Sunday Mass and religious holidays was a must. My most memorable masses were the ones where I almost fainted (2nd grade) and actually did faint as a teenager, at the communion rail, no less. Could the lack of air conditioning in our basement church have contributed to those incidents?

Confession was on Saturdays where I `fessed up to all those times I talked back to my Mother...two Hail Marys, please!

Confession was heard in a dark closet-like space where two "sinners" occupy "booths" on either side of the priest. This experience can be scary when you are young. On one occasion, my wait in the dark for the priest to raise that little window and address me became inordinately long. Was there a mass murderer in that other confessional or what? At any rate, my wait became so long that I began



to cry so loud that my mother came and "rescued" me. That was penance enough for whatever sins I had planned to confess.

In spite of my questioning of the Pope's authority when the rule about eating meat on Friday miraculously was reversed, I continued another eight years of Catholic education and met a nice Catholic boy who became my first husband. I should have known there would be "issues" at our pre-nuptial conference where the priest indicated that I would be subjected to my husband's desires in all matters and again at our wedding ceremony when, instead of focusing on

the joys of marriage, the same priest took the opportunity to share a lovely homily about the evils of abortion. Not exactly the wedding message I had in mind. While my husband promptly stopped attending mass, I held up my end of the Catholic bargain and went alone.

One day at mass in my late 20's I was listening to another sermon about the special attributes of the Blessed Virgin when I realized that this information was not helping me live my life in the world every day. That was it...no more Catholic church...and for that matter...no more church at all!

Through my 30's I did not totally reject God, becoming a Christmas/Easter Christian, but, shall we say, the line of communication was severely disconnected. After my divorce and some more challenging life experiences, my spiritual roots began to show signs of new life. I started looking for a church experience. I don't think I ever really entertained the idea of going back to the Catholic Church where divorce was frowned upon.

I began my search in a haphazard way...not with purpose, but as the opportunity arose. Yes, I attended that service held in a movie theatre...was that the "Church of the Son"? Yes, I did like the live contemporary music and even bought the tape. It was inspirational and I actually still have the tape, but that venue wasn't right for me. I tried Unity...hmmm. Yes, maybe, kind of...not sure.

Then an older friend who was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach ("FPC") insisted that I come to church for Father's Day one year...maybe 1988/9. Well, what was the harm...sure, it was close and I



went. I can't say I was hooked from Day 1, but it was a good experience. My spiritual juices were bubbling to the top again and as the years went by I did begin to go to FPC services more often.

When I was planning to be married in 1991 I knew I wanted a church wedding, in spite of my first experience. First Presbyterian was my choice because I liked the traditional format and the music program was impressive even before Don Cannarozzi took it to its current exceptional level. Dr. Bush was a minister I could relate to and his messages reinforced a

Christian lifestyle that I felt I could take out into the world each week. (Isn't it funny that most Catholics I know just hate long sermons? I have close family members who avoid long-winded priests at all costs...in spite of the cost of gas.) To me the sermon is a very important part of the service and I look forward to each week's message at our church.

Since I have been a member of First Presbyterian Church I have become more involved in the life of the church and have enjoyed getting to know my fellow Christians. I particularly enjoyed a breakfast bible study that was held for several years early enough for me to still punch the clock in a somewhat timely manner. In that forum, a small group of members, whom I now call my friends, shared important messages of the bible and we

were able to relate those to our every day lives. It was a wonderful experience, especially as we sat watching the sun rise over our beautiful South Florida beach.

In more recent years I have served as a Deacon which was another wonderful way to get to know church members and to put my Christian beliefs to work. As a Trustee on the Session, I participate in the "business" side of the church activities that demand the attention of a group of dedicated members and I marvel at the amount of time and effort committee activities require.

Sister Catherine Lucille and Father Pank might be less than happy with my choice, but I am very pleased that my spiritual journey led me to "FPC", First Presbyterian Church, "MY Community Church by the Sea". ❖

## Caroling by Trolley



A fun time was had by all as two trolleys full of carolers pulled away from the front of the church on Sunday, December 13th. With full stomachs from a pizza dinner, the singers were excited to bring some Christmas cheer to several of our homebound members as well as several of our local assisted living facilities. ❖



# Back to Basics

by *Becky Knapp*

31 Pine Grove Elementary students and 20 Plumosa Elementary students, primarily in grades 3-5 and a few



Pre-K-2 graders, were the recipients of promised new underwear, socks and basic white tennis shoes from First Presbyterian Church through our Mission Outreach Committee. Each Holiday Season, this local mission effort serves up to 6,000 needy school-

## Put yourself in the picture!

by *Jim Poch*

Westminster Ringers will welcome new recruits to the joys of tintinnabulation! Previous experience is welcome, but not necessary, since our veterans will happily mentor new recruits. Rehearsals are held from 6:30 to 7:20 each Thursday evening in room 208 of the Christian Education Building. Contact Jim Poch (276-6338, ext. 24) for further information or to advise him of your intention to join! ❖



aged children in our county, enabling them to be properly equipped with the basics to participate in physical education classes at their schools. The non-profit Back-to-Basics, Inc. Angel Program was creat-



ed 25 years ago by Don and Beverly Perham of Wellington, Florida to help fill this need. They orchestrate the gift donations and arrange distribution to specific students through participating schools. "As concerned citizens, we have a responsibility to serve those less fortunate than ourselves. By participating in the Back-to-Basics Angel Program, we are experiencing the joy of helping and giving that will last a lifetime." ❖



## 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:

Pat Bienfait - November 3, 2009

Reece Galyon - November 8, 2009

Elizabeth Howe - November 28, 2009

Pauline Krestel - December 7, 2009 ❖

# Christmas Pageant was a Success

Once again, the Children's Christmas Pageant held on Sunday, December 6th at the 11 a.m. service brought smiles to the faces of the congregation. Coordinated by Jim Poch and Denise Gomez, this annual event was one of the highlights of the Advent season. ❖



## Church Improvement Committee

by Barbara Vanderkay

The November Holly Days Bazaar and the subsequent Holiday Craft Boutique were the final successful events of the Church Improvement Committee in 2009. We are pleased to tell you that receipts are over \$14,000, with more yet to come in. Sincere and hearty thanks to all our loyal workers and buyers for helping once again.

Our next project is the **Step-Above-Rummage sale** in **February**. As you may remember, last year we experimented and extended the sale days. This worked out very well and we will do it again this year. On **Thursday February 11th, Friday the 12th and Saturday the 13th**, we will be open to the public from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** **Wednesday the 10th**, will be members' presale day from 1 to 3 p.m. Having this longer time to shop means that the aisles are less crowded and the atmosphere calmer.

We will appreciate your bringing your donations to Fellowship Hall from 9 a.m. until noon beginning on **Tuesday, January 26th**, and continuing on week-



days and Saturdays **through Monday, February 8th**. A great variety of items will be welcome, from good, CLEAN clothing, small household appliances in working order, small pieces of furniture that you can put in your car, good CLEAN linens, and always popular costume jewelry. We hope you will keep your donations for us until

**Tuesday, January 26th**, because, large as our church property is, there just isn't enough storage space available to us. One exception: please bring jewelry ahead of time as it sometimes requires cleaning or minor repairs as well as pricing.

We need many people to help us. It really is not hard work and you are working with things given by your friends and fellow members, not strangers. You'll be surprised at the nice things that come in, including some antiques and collectibles. Come and join the fun and the good feeling of knowing you have helped the buyers and also contributed through the Church Improvement Committee toward extra things for our beautiful church. Unsold items are donated to local charities supported by the church.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the weekly Bulletins. Please fill one out, place it in the collection plate, drop it off in the office, or give it to one of the board members. Questions? Ask Regie Moorcroft at 495-5376. ❖

*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](http://www.firstdelray.com). If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter, please email Nancy Fine at [nancyfine@covad.net](mailto:nancyfine@covad.net).



## The Deacons' Corner

*by Jean Irwin and Kim Winker*

The Deacons' Christmas Tree was a great success! All the tags were taken from the tree by November 29th and over 300 gifts were distributed to needy families in the area. The gift cards were the most popular, disappearing the first week, but there were also lots of requests for dolls and trucks. Thank you all for either shopping or contributing money so that we could do the shopping for you. You made many Christmas wishes come true! ❖

