

Historical Marker: Recognition and Dedication

On Sunday, March 8th, at 12:30 p.m., following the second worship service, our congregation will gather on the steps and front lawn on Gleason Street for the dedication of the State of Florida historical marker noting the importance of the life of our congregation in the history of the City of Delray Beach.

Through the generosity of Mr. Robert Neff, this beautiful bronze marker has been provided and placed in front of our church. In association with the Delray Beach Historical Society, this marker will be officially dedicated and our church recognized for the role that we have played in this city's history.

A special "thank you" to Elder Nancy Young, our church historian, for her diligent work in preparing the groundwork for this historical event. Our appreciation also goes

to Elder Bob Teninga for overseeing the installation of this marker and for the beautification of the area surrounding it.

Aware of the prominence of our church's role in this city's past and cognizant of our role in the life of this community today, we look forward to this significant day in the life of our congregation. Following the dedication, a reception for the congregation and the community will be held in our church's Fellowship Hall.

The specific wording on the historical marker reads:

"An orange grove, once located at this site, played a role in the early development of Delray Beach. Until 1876, an old, sour orange grove was the only distinguishable characteristic within 60 miles of a sparsely inhabited subtropical wilderness between Lake



Worth and Biscayne Bay. Settlers in 1894-95 who saw the grove that was partially surrounded by a rock wall, speculated that the trees were planted by Seminole Indians, Minorcan immigrants, or the Spanish, but its origin remains unknown. A nearby haulover (a location where boats were carried from one navigable place to another), the Orange-Grove Haulover was named after the grove and is found on 19th century Florida maps as far

back as 1826. The U.S. Life Saving Service, established by Congress in 1848 to protect mariners, built the Orange Grove House of Refuge No. 3 in 1876. When potential settlers came to the proposed Town of Linton, (later renamed Delray Beach), the Keeper of the Refuge, Stephen N. Andrews, suggested that the main street, Atlantic Avenue, be placed between the House of Refuge on the north and the orange grove on the south. The grove, long gone, became the site of this Mediterranean Revival building in 1924.

In 1924, a local Baptist congregation built a new Sanctuary on this spot. The church, the only one built on the Delray Beach barrier island, was considered by many to be one of the most beautiful in the city. F.J. Schrader was the architect, builder and financial under-

writer. He said his inspiration was a picture and floor plan of a church in Florence, Italy, but that he made this church less ornate. In May 1924, he and a small crew, consisting of a carpenter, plumber, and electrician, faced a difficult task, especially with constructing the church's large cypress trusses. It was said at the time that the church was "the most Floridian church in Florida." The original building was constructed as Gibson Memorial Church but after the real estate crash

of 1926 and the hurricanes that followed, the congregation was unable to finish paying Schrader. Five weeks after the 1928 hurricane, local Presbyterians rented the church, later purchasing it. After a new Sanctuary was built in 1977, the original church became a Fellowship Hall for the First Presbyterian Church." ❖

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Reflections...

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

"The Lenten Journey"

The Lenten journey begins again. This month, we venture once more down the same path that we have traveled so many times before. It is an interesting path because even though it is familiar to us in so many ways, it also is amazingly different. Like a walk that we take in the woods or along the beach, every time we traverse a path that we may have walked many times before, we tend to see something that we never noticed previously.

Depending upon where we may be walking, we may see something that astonishes us and makes us stand in awe of nature and its diverse beauty. Perhaps it is a cardinal landing on a branch outside our window. Maybe it is an alligator protecting her brood of newborns in a tropical wetland. It might even be a flock of birds heading north or south depending upon the season of the year.

Just as we may see vastly different things on a nature walk, we also can experience a wide variety of different things on a spiritual walk as well. But we must be open to what is happening around us, and especially within us, on such a spiritual journey. Are we?

Most Christians do not get very excited about Lent. Perhaps it arises from old childhood experiences when we were scolded if we did not give up something for the holy season. Talk about archaic! As if giving up chocolate or meat, somehow would satisfy the religious



requirement of a sacrificial action. Having come from an extended family with both Protestant and Catholic relatives, I always looked upon such admonitions as interesting, but hardly spiritual.

Perhaps what we really need to give up are ways of living that are not reflective of who God wants us to be in this life. This means getting down to serious business. It implies that we take the time which the Lenten season provides to ponder the great mystery of the love of God, of the sacrificial nature of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, and to face up to what our Lord wants us to be doing with our life today. We are urged to do all of this before we gather to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

This Lenten season, may we make this sacred pilgrimage together. Yes, we do need to do it on our own because we each are called to be a servant of God in this world. But, at least in spirit, we must make this holy journey together because we also all are called to be faithful disciples of the living Christ. ❖

Church Staff

Theodore A. Bush, Ph.D.
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James K. Poch, S.M.M.
Associate Director of Music

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Volunteer/Staff Coordinator for Children

Happy Kinnear, M.Div.
Youth Leader

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Office Manager

Christine Davis Paula Hare
Accountant *Secretary*

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Head Custodian *Custodian*

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Spring Golf Tournament

Our **Spring Golf Tournament and Dinner** will be held on **Sunday, March 15th at 2:30 p.m.** at Lakeview Golf Club. Golf will be \$18 and dinner will be \$10. Reservations will be taken following the worship services in the Courtyard. ❖



Stewardship Update

The Challenge Before Us

by Jim Fisher, Chair, Board of Trustees

As of February 18, 2009, our Stewardship Drive has totaled \$860,699 from 304 pledges. Our sincere thanks to all of you who have committed your support to our 2009 budget. However, our stewardship campaign for this year is still not complete. We continue to have a significant number of pledges that have not been returned. **Currently, we have 244 potential pledging units of individuals and families that we have not heard from as of today.** If you have not submitted your pledge for this year, please review your personal situation carefully and prayerfully. If possible, please send in your pledge to the financial office or call Christine Davis (276-6338, ext. 16). We need to complete



our pledging soon so that we can finalize our financial plan for 2009. We must minimize our use of Endowment and Remembrance Funds so that we can deal with the future needs of the church in a responsible way.

Many people who stroll downtown Delray Beach as well as visitors to our services and other church events marvel at what we have here at First Presbyterian. More importantly, we have people

and programs that reach out to our community and elsewhere reflecting the loving arms of Christ in a broken world. We have been blessed and will continue to be blessed, but we need everyone's help to be successful in our endeavors. Consider the words of the Apostle Paul from II Corinthians 9 "...

whoever sows generously will also reap generously ... each should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for

God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound in you, so

that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work ..." Indeed, may

God bless each and every one of you. ❖

One Great Hour of Sharing

by Jeane Forrest

This year's One Great Hour of Sharing will go to construct a building that will hold a medical clinic in a village in the Philippines. Eventually, this building will serve a multipurpose use, housing both a medical clinic and a pre-school.



My daughter, Amber, and I have visited this village and know how much the people there need such a facility. While we can't solve all of the world's problems, we can make a difference

in the lives of 500 families. As part of our Christian responsibility, we are asked to share our blessings with some of God's people half way around the world. ❖



**Sunday, March 8th
Daylight Savings
Time Begins!**

Youth Sunday 2009



God will raise you up on Eagles' wings!

by Rev. Happy Kinnear

Youth Sunday was February 8th this year, but the young people started planning all the way back in November.

We began by learning what the different parts of worship are, talking about different styles of worship in various traditions, looking at Biblical examples of worship, and discussing our own spiritual high points in worship. For the High Schoolers, the PC(USA) Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina was a



definite mountaintop experience. They felt tremendous joy and unity in the worship at Montreat where each session gathers thousands of young people together in prayer, songs and Scripture. They hoped that since our whole church can't go to Montreat, perhaps they



could bring a little of Montreat to you on Youth Sunday.

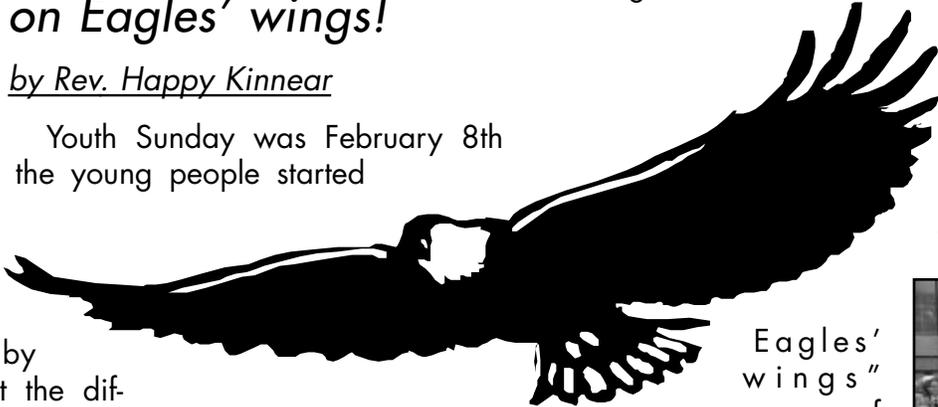
As we talked about Scripture passages that were especially mean-



ingful to the youth, the story of Joseph emerged. The young people identified one of the key elements of Joseph's story:



that God is with us no matter what the situation. They felt, and I agreed, that this is a valuable faith lesson and especially poignant during this cur-



"Eagles' wings" was one of the passages and we felt that this was confirmation that God wanted us to share that message.

I am so proud of all the young people who took part in the service. The young people themselves did it all; they planned the service, wrote the prayers, drew the bulletin cover, wrote the drama, wrote the sermon, did a fantastic job of leading us in worship, and the list could go on and on! I thank God that He has given such wonderful gifts to these young people. Their beautiful voices, their graceful dancing, their powerful words, and their enthusiastic



leadership was a joy to behold! I pray that it was a meaningful time of worship for you and I ask that you continue to support the youth of this church with your words of encouragement, your friendships with them, and most of all your prayers. ❖

Stephen Ministry

by Dick Walgrove



I have been an active Stephen Minister in First Presbyterian Church since 2004. Following 50 hours of instruction. My ministry during these past years has given me the opportunity to provide confidential on-on-one Christian care to several people experiencing difficulties in their lives.

In September of 2008, I expressed a desire to be more active in the Stephen Ministry program and was offered the opportunity through our Stephen Ministry Fund to take a Stephen Leaders' Training course to enable me to teach and help administer Stephen Ministry at First Presbyterian Church. In January 2009, I attended a seven day course in Orlando, Florida and will be commissioned on Sunday, April 19th. The course was one of six which will be held in 2009. In addition to one other course in Orlando, courses will be held in Portland, Oregon, Dallas, Texas, St. Louis, Missouri and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The course I took was attended by 382 people representing 250 congregations in 20 states, France and 4 Canadian Provinces.

I consider it a blessing to be a part of Stephen Ministry at First Presbyterian Church and I am looking forward to helping administer this vital program together with Jo Garnett, Sharon Koch and Linda Prior. ❖

A Christmas Gift of Love

Dear Friends,

I am writing to thank you for your generous gifts to the Christmas Eve offering that went to help a family in great need. Thanks to your kindness, they have been able to move into a new apartment provided by Adopt-A-Family. They are now living in an environment which will add considerable peace and stability to their lives.

They had no belongings other than their clothes to take with them. The family is so grateful to all of you who donated furniture and household items. Some of you even helped transport furniture to their new home.

The young girl, who has been fighting cancer for three years, is such an angel. She is always so brave and positive. She is so happy to be in her new home and to sleep in her very own bed. Her Mom and sister and brother also say that this is a dream come true.

Once again, I thank you for your amazing, loving spirits.

With love,
Mary Bush

Lenten Fasts

"It is much more difficult than giving up chocolate, but hopefully, more beneficial to our spiritual walk with God."

Fast from judging others; feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

From Judith Blanchard's Portland Hospital Ministry Newsletter about Lenten fasts. ❖



Violet

The violet, a symbol of humility, is most often used in reference to the Virgin Mary.

St. Bernard described Mary as "the violet of humility." The flower is also used to express Christ's humility in assuming human form. ❖

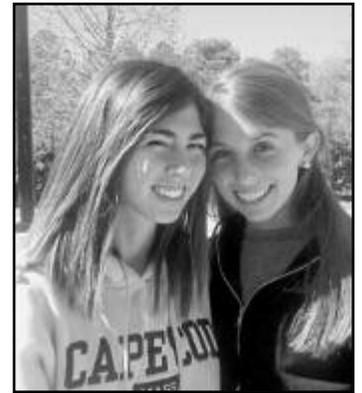
Faith in 3D

by Chris Del Mastro

Thousands of youth from across the country gathered together at the Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando for three days of worship, fellowship and Disney! Faith in 3D stood for the three denominations attending: Presbyterians, Baptists and Episcopalians. Faith in 3D also stood for: Dare, Discover, Dream. Those were the topics the three speakers, one from each denomination, talked about. My husband, Scott, and I were fortunate enough to be able to take several youth from our church to this fabulous event. I think the



speakers really inspired the youth. I know they inspired me. One of the speakers asked what we would dare to do to help others. He wanted us to actually tell someone what it was we were going to do so we would be held accountable for it. I thought about it and told Scott I wanted to volunteer more in our son Mitchell's classroom with a few students who need extra help. Now, I make the time when it seems I have none. My dream is that we will all dare to do something



this week to spread God's love and in the process discover who we were meant to be. What will you dare to do this week? ❖



Feeding the Hungry

To allow the hungry to remain hungry would be blasphemy against God and one's neighbor, for what is nearest to God is precisely the need of one's neighbor. It is for the love of Christ, which belongs as much to the hungry as to myself, that I share my bread with them and that I share my dwelling with the homeless. If the hungry do not attain to faith, then the guilt falls on those who refused them bread. To provide the hungry with bread is to prepare the way for the coming of grace.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer ❖

What is Prayer?

If the Bible is our food, then prayer is our air. It's the way by which we draw in the atmosphere of God.

Prayer is rich and varied. Sometimes we confess our sins in a prayer of penitence. Sometimes we praise God in worship and thanksgiving. Sometimes we ask God for help and grace to meet whatever comes our way. Sometimes we pray for other people. Sometimes we're quiet, knowing that when we stop clamoring and pleading our case, there comes a sense of God's reply, some intimation of his will, some message from him to us.

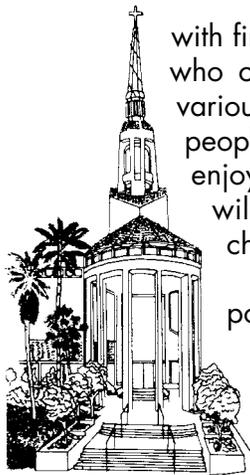
Remember that nothing God can ever give is comparable to himself. It is God we seek in prayer. Everything else is secondary. ❖

Church Improvement Committee

by Barbara Vanderkay

The economy is not good, but, as we expected, our Step-Above-Rummage Sale held as usual the second week in February filled a bigger need in the community than in more prosperous times. We had more items donated than ever before, we were open three days for the public instead of two, and we sold even more than last year. With receipts of over \$19,000, it was one of our most successful sales ever.

We want to express our great appreciation to all the women who worked for the three weeks preceding the sale, checking and pricing the merchandise; the generous church members and non-members who gave us so many wonderful things; the church staff members who cheerfully helped us as they did their usual jobs, especially Aaron Strippel, our Head Custodian; Nancy Fine, our Office Manager, who coped with innumerable phone inquiries among other things; Christine Davis, our Accountant, who helped



with financial details; and, Rita Avery, our Custodian, who cleaned up after fifty-some women working in various areas of the church. Thank you to all the sales people, who worked hard, but found it was really an enjoyable experience. Thank you to the men who willingly lifted and carried heavy items and checked out mechanical and electrical donations.

Lastly, a big cheer for our customers who supported the event so well, and a special hooray for Regie Moorcroft, who leads us as we work, and who works harder and longer than anyone else. She can, and does, take over a job with great competence wherever she is needed.

Our course, our enthusiastic craft women want to know when they will start the Holly House workshops again. After some vacation time, we'll be back on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, around the end of this month or early April.

Working together as we have been doing, one cannot help noticing the wonderful camaraderie among the kind and loving members of the First Presbyterian Church. Let's keep in closer contact with the people we have come to know better thanks to the sale.

We can begin by taking advantage of the refreshment time in the Courtyard after the Sunday worship services and talking with some of our new and old friends. See you there. ❖



Presbyterian Women's Fashion Show and Luncheon

by Carol Possanza

The Presbyterian Women will host a fashion show on Saturday, March 28th at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. The theme is "Snappy Spring Fashions" and will feature clothes for women and children from The Snappy Turtle.

The fashion show and luncheon is open to all church women and their guests, with a special invitation to grandmothers, mothers, and children. Tickets will be on sale at \$25 in the Courtyard immediately following church services beginning March 1st. This is our major fundraiser this year. As you know, the Presbyterian Women support various charities in our community.

Please join us for an afternoon of fun and relaxation. For more information, please call Cathy Bolinger at 499-3728. ❖

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:

Gordon Stanley - February 1, 2009

Horst Gruendig - February 18, 2009 ❖

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Sunday Morning Worship Service

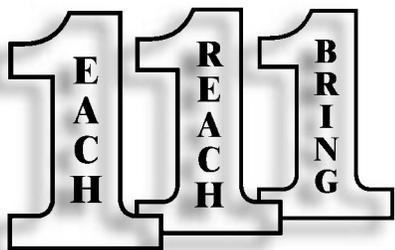
9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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.



Deacons' Sunday Meet and Greet

by Kim Winker

Spring is upon us and so is "Meet Your Deacon Sunday." This annual reception, hosted by the 36 Deacons and headed up by Deacons Judy Hodge and Verina Fugler, is Sunday, March 22, 2009, in Fellowship Hall after the 9 a.m. service from 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and after the 11 a.m. service from 12 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. This is a great way for you to meet your Deacon and for your Deacon to meet you!

Food and refreshments will be plentiful with delicious goodies brought in by each Deacon. Enjoy the tasty treats and fantastic fellowship with the Deacons and congregation.

Former Deacons will be on hand in the Courtyard to help you find your Deacon. We hope you can join us March 22nd for the fellowship, food and fun! ❖

40 Days to Spiritual Health

Lent is the 40 day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Traditionally, it has been a time when Christians reexamine their spiritual life and try to discern the quality of their relationship with God.

There are many individual approaches to strengthening the spiritual life, including: choosing to fast, praying more often, reading the Bible and devotional literature, engaging more often in public worship, serving God more intensely in the world.

We miss the mark if we focus only on our desires. Lent ought to be a time of deeper dedication to God and seeking ways in which we can help to further God's kingdom on Earth. ❖

Oh Jesus, my feet are dirty. Come even as a slave to me, pour water into Your bowl, come and wash my feet. In asking such a thing I know I am overbold but I dread what was threatened when You said to me, "If I do not wash your feet I have no fellowship with you." Wash my feet then, because I long for Your companionship. And yet, what am I asking? It was well for Peter to ask You to wash his feet, for him that was all that was needed for him to be clean in every part. With me it is different, though You wash me now I shall still stand in need of that other washing, the cleansing You promised when You said, "there is a baptism I must need to be baptized with".

Origen, c. 185–c. 254