

"OGHS"

by Jeanne Heavilin, Co-Chair, Mission Outreach Committee

Where will you sleep tonight? That is not a question we really have to ponder. But if you lived in Haiti, you might be one of the



hundreds of thousands of individuals who have no place to sleep, no place to call home.

For those who lost their homes during the recent earthquake or whose homes are structurally compromised to the point of being uninhabitable, temporary shelter is a critical need, especially with the rainy season soon to begin. It will take many years to rebuild permanent structures.

This year, our "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering taken on Palm Sunday, March 28th, will be used to purchase tents. These are 8-10 man tents, large to enough to shelter an average Haitian family and sturdy enough to withstand heavy rain and wind.

Any amount you contribute will be used for the purchase of these tents. The cost is only \$90 per tent so we can make a difference for many families. ❖

INSIDE . . .

Reflections Page 2

Dr. Bush

Church Improvement Page 3

Barbara Vanderkay

Holy Week Devotions Page 4

Multiple Authors

Reflections...

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

"Marching into March"

Lent has a way of quietly sneaking into our lives and then, disappearing almost as quickly as it came. Before we know it, Holy Week and Easter will arrive and pass us by as well. When we look back at it, perhaps it will feel as though these sacred days were hardly here.



Maybe we modern-day Christians have forgotten what happened during the Lenten season of our distant ancestors in the faith. This month, many of us will be watching college basketball's "March Madness". Back in ancient times, Christians were preparing to celebrate the day of Christ's resurrection. They did this by taking considerable time to reflect upon His teachings as well as the meaning of His suffering and death on the cross. New converts to Christianity were studying the meaning of the faith into which they would be baptized on Easter itself. My, how times have changed!

I often wonder what we modern-day Christians would do if we were asked to pattern our own Lenten pilgrimage after that of the early Christians? Would we give up our faith because it was becoming too demanding, too exhausting, and too sacrificial to please our current lifestyles? Or, would we continue in the faith regardless of the cost?

When I look at those Christians

who preceded us during difficult, historical periods, I realize the seriousness with which they understood their faith. I wonder how many of us would have the same courage to witness to our faith if our own lives and well-being were on the line.

Lest you think that I am pointing the proverbial finger at you, rest assured that I put myself into the latter category as well. Christianity is strange that way, isn't it? Christ demands things from us that we tend to be very reluctant to give. Our faith requires the depth and sincerity of a loyalty that few people actually display in their personal lives.

I suppose that we should be grateful for those Christians who prove to be examples of an honest religious faith. They should be among the heroes that the rest of us look up to and seek to emulate.

Maybe "March Madness" really is the kind of madness that pulls us away from the faith we profess. Like many of you, I still will watch and cheer for my favorite teams among the group of 64 selected. Yet, for some reason, I think that I better devote at least as much time to reflecting upon what our Lord experienced as He suffered and died for us. After all, basketball really is only a game. The Christian faith is something that will last forever. ❖

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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.

Church Improvement Committee

by Barbara Vanderkay

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it." We just broke our own record with proceeds for \$21,000 from our Rummage Sale.

Yes, we really did it. First Presbyterian Church put on the best Step-Above Rummage Sale in South Florida. Each February, we surprise even ourselves with what we can do.

It all begins with loyal members who save their good rummage donations to give to us, starting the last week in January, nuisance though it may be, instead of helping other charities earlier in the season. Without you, we'd be "selling from an empty wagon".

Then it's time for the workers, who accept the merchandise, check it carefully, price it fairly and set up shop – or shops – around the church. There are strong, willing men who set up the Courtyard tent, arrange tables and display racks and lug the heavier things to their appointed locations. "It's so nice to have a man around the house!" Some of the women cheerfully take home things that need spots removed or careful ironing to smooth out the creases. "Man may work from sun to sun but woman's work is never done."

The actual sale days bring out more people, men



and women, who act as sales people, cashiers, traffic controllers and bag boys. "No tipping, please."

Now comes the customers' turn. We must be doing things right when many people come year after year. "A satisfied customer is our best advertisement."

First Presbyterian Church surely has the best staff in town, always willing, cheerful, friendly and able to do all sorts of things not in their job descriptions. Who are they? Nancy Fine, our Office Manager, fields phone questions by the dozens and is the fount of information on many topics; Christine Davis, our Accountant, helps with money matters; Aaron Strippel, our Head Custodian, is everywhere, doing anything and everything; Rita Avery, our Custodian, keeps things clean and neat.

The Church Improvement Committee would like to express not only our thanks to all these people, but also express the gratitude of the entire church for

the contributions of all of you. Of course a resounding cheer for Regie Moorcroft, our leader, planner and hardest worker. "The first shall be last, and the last, first."

Working for this great endeavor brings more than monetary benefit to the church. We grow in Christian Fellowship, forging new bonds with fellow members, thereby strengthening our church.

P.S. for the information of our Holly Days Bazaar crafters, the Holly House workshops will open for business on March 6th, with our Annual Show and Tell meeting at 9:30 a.m. Please bring your new ideas and samples to show us. ❖



Lenten Taizé Services

Each Friday morning during Lent, Taizé prayer services will be held from 8 to 8:30 a.m. in the Covered Patio, concluding on Good Friday, April 2nd. Led by Parish Associate, Rev. Harper and musician Michael Testa, these short, half-hour services include unison singing, a reading from the Psalms, a reading from the Gospel, ten minutes of silent prayer or meditation and

a closing hymn. These ecumenical prayer services are meant to cultivate reconciliation and peace among all people using simple songs and meditative prayer.

Additionally, Rev. Harper and Mr. Testa will bring Taizé to Abbey Delray South each Monday at 11 a.m. in the Hospitality Room through March 29th (except for March 8th).

Taizé Prayer is an ecumenical form of prayer modeled after an international, ecumenical community founded in the 1940's by Brother Roger in Taizé, France. ❖

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS

**Palm Sunday,
March 28, 2010**

Scripture paints a deep and beautiful portrait of our Savior Jesus Christ entering the holy city of Jerusalem. As a minister who enjoys the sermon preparation process and preaching, I read the words of Luke 19:28-44 and other accounts of Jesus' entrance to Jerusalem, and am struck with the rich messages that would make great sermons.

First there is the image of our Lord and Savior, riding into the royal city of Jerusalem on a colt. In the Gospel of Matthew it further points out that by colt, they mean the foal of a donkey. The Son of God, the One Who is to deliver them from all that weighs them down, does not ride a royal horse that we imagine early kings entering battle with, but instead a colt. Nor does He enter the city with a red carpet or roses, but with coats laid on the ground before Him. Despite the lack of lavish customs, it is the voices of believers, whose own coats were likely on the ground, shouting "Blessed is the King Who comes in the Name of the Lord," that makes His entrance so triumphant.

A second message that resonates so much with our world today is that Scripture tells us that "as He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it..." Jesus came for each of us. He came to set straight what could otherwise not be repaired. Not only then, but today, there is so much pain and hurt that could be healed if only we loved one another as Jesus loves us. Jesus wept when He saw Jerusalem because they did not know what would bring them peace. We know what will bring peace to conflicted hearts – Jesus Christ. Let us resolve to do our best to live with the courage and strength that comes through faith in Christ. Let us see what happens when we put God first not only this Easter season, but in the year to come.

*Rev. Aaron Janklow
Associate Pastor ❖*

Monday, March 29, 2010

I don't know many people who are particularly wild about Mondays. For many of us, Monday is the first

day of the work week and begins with the sounding of an alarm beckoning us forth from our slumber. With weary eyes we greet the world, wishing that we had just one more day to enjoy the weekend. I can only imagine how Jesus felt as He began this particular week which would be like no other in history. The day before, He rode into town on a donkey as onlookers waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna, Blessed is the One Who comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel." There was a great deal of excitement and then Monday morning came along. In the course of the week, Jesus would face ridicule and persecution out of the mouths of the very same individuals who began the week by singing His praises. Between two Sundays, Jesus was: praised, cleansed, proclaimed a healer, rejected, sentenced to death, ridiculed, crucified, buried and raised from the dead. What a week! And yet through all of these twists, turns, and changes, Jesus remained faithful to and faith-filled by His Heavenly Father, Who walked with Him every step of the way. As we begin this Holy Week, let us be reminded that we too can rest in the promise that we serve a faithful God who journeys with us throughout every day of the week, even on Mondays.

Rev. Katie Fellows-Christie

*Chaplain with Crossroads Hospice, Tucker, Georgia
Katie grew up in our congregation and was ordained to the Ministry in our Sanctuary on June 3, 2007. ❖*

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

Psalm 71:1-14

When is the last time you went on a trip? Travel is filled with the excitement of seeing new things and the exhaustion of navigating daily itineraries. As most travelers would agree, how you get to your destination is important.

Each year, we journey together during the season of Lent. Lent is a time of discipline and preparation, when we look inside ourselves and look to God. In the midst of an uncertain and often difficult world, we acknowledge our refuge and hope in God.

Our Lenten pilgrimage begins on Ash Wednesday and culminates on Easter Sunday. It is a journey of moving from searching and lamenting; to hope and praise. During Holy Week, we remember and proclaim the atonement of the suffering and death of

Jesus Christ. During this week we ask, "Where do I find myself in the passion story?" Despite the human affliction of Jesus, He lived out the divine nature of His earthly journey. This season of our faith is about traveling to a familiar place, but seeing it in a new light.

A suggested spiritual practice:

Find an uninterrupted time to gather with loved ones or by yourself. Spend a few moments in silence and then read aloud Psalm 71:1-14. Listen for particular words or phrases that resonate with you. Read the Psalm again and reflect on the ways that Jesus triumphed in the midst of tragedy.

Kellen Smith

Member of our congregation, currently a student at Princeton Theological Seminary ❖

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

We have embarked upon yet another new year and a new decade. Such a change in our interpretation of time and the world which we are in, but are not of, can be overwhelming. During these times it is fundamental to our faith to reflect upon the true simplicity of life, which is a gift not to be squandered.

The world around us is filled with countless distractions, which at times may divert the attention of our minds, hearts, and spirits from realizing, believing, and accepting the true unconditional love of God. It is essential that we remember that Jesus Christ our Lord and personal Savior paid the ultimate price so that we may know God and one glad day enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

During Holy Week we become very mentally and emotionally cognizant of the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. Such a reflection has the propensity to stir up raw emotions that perhaps for most of the year we banish to the depths of our consciousness and within the very soul of our being. We may feel: remorse, guilt, and despair among a myriad of other agonizing emotions. But friends, remember that only a fool need be thirsty in the presence of an abundance of water.

Expressing internal emotions outwardly, at times, seems to be a condition of being born into this world. When Jesus walked among our ancestors, He, too, was known to have wept. Consequently, we ought to expect tears to stream down many a bowed face this Holy Week, but suffice it to say that we must remember

to do so in appreciation and as a sign of acceptance of the grace and everlasting love that God, the Father of us all, has bestowed upon us without hesitation. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life". Let the burden of our hearts roll away as we say, thanks be to God. Amen.

Karlton E. Brown, Moderator of Deacons

Member of our congregation, currently a student at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (UDTS) ❖

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2010

We gather around the table
in the stark upper room
gathered as friends of long-standing;
drawn to this man, Jesus,
Who simply said, "Come, follow Me."

We followed Him,
we dared to change our lives for Him,
to fish for Him,
that He might multiply with sheer extravagance
all which we humbly gave.

Tonight He takes the bread and breaks it;
blesses the wine and drinks of it,
asking us to absorb, contain, the astonishing fact
that it is His body and His blood of which we
partake.

What shall we do with this eternal gift?
Coming - just as we are - to this table tonight,
broken and beaten and bitter
dry, thirsty and hungering
for forgiveness.

The Garden awaits us
where we, too, will sleep;
The Cross awaits us
where we, too, will ask once more
just one more time
to be forgiven.

Rev. Linda Harper

Parish Associate ❖

Good Friday, April 2, 2010

John 18:1 -19:42

What would we see if we were on Golgotha's Hill on Good Friday? In the gathering darkness that the gospels describe we would see Jesus hanging on a rough wooden cross. We would see the two thieves on either side. This is a sight not easy to look at.

What would we hear if we were there when Jesus was crucified? We would hear the sounds of nails being driven into wood, the insults shouted at the cross and the grieving women at its foot.

If we listen closely, we might hear the final words of Jesus, "It is finished." Sounds that are not pleasant to our ear.

Faith tells us there is something more about this scene. In an unlikely place, in pain and sorrow, God showed love for a sinful world. We are forgiven. Perhaps there are people to whom you can offer forgiveness.

Loving God,

We pray for the courage to offer forgiveness to those with whom we live and work. May we exhibit the grace you have given us to others. Amen

Rev. Jo Garnett

Associate for Senior Ministries ❖

Saturday, April 3, 2010

Matthew 27:57-66

It is Saturday. Jesus is dead. Our hopes for the Messiah are smashed to bits. Joseph of Arimathea has taken Jesus' body off the cross and placed it in the tomb. The Roman soldiers, worried of trickery, sealed the tomb and stand guard outside it. Yesterday seems but a fog ... did it really happen? Do you feel as numb as I do? The truth is beginning to sink in. Jesus is dead. Our Lord is dead. Dead. Really, truly dead. What is left? What hope is there? "... My soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him.'" (Lamentations 3:20b-24). Though my face is drenched from crying, though my breath stutters from weeping, though I see no cause for hope, I hear the Word of the Lord and I wait. I wait. My soul is down-

cast within me. Yet I hear God's words and have hope. God's love is great and His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is God's faithfulness. I will wait for Him. I will hope. It is Saturday. Jesus is dead. Yet I wait ... I wait. I hope. I wait. Will you wait with me? Will you hope?

Rev. Happy Foster-Kinnear

A faithful participant of Friends and Fellowship and a Bible Bunch Leader. ❖

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010

One morning, I sat on a bench in the Memorial Garden at church. Looking at the names of those whose earthly remains are interred in this sacred place, I realized how many of them I have known over the years. In many ways, their individual lives are a testimony to all who have preceded us in life.

Then, I thought about Easter morning. What must Mary Magdalene have been thinking as she sat in the Garden where Jesus had been buried? The stone no longer covered the entrance to His burial place. The tomb was empty and His body was gone. What was she to do now?

She was sad, confused and frightened, when she heard a voice call out her name. She realized that it was the Voice of her Lord!

As I sat in the Memorial Garden of our church, I realized how wonderful life will be when Jesus calls out our names on some Easter morning when it is time for our resurrection. Even now, I can almost hear Jesus calling out the individual names of those who are interred in this holy place. But then, I realize that these souls already are in Eternity with our Risen Lord. Alleluia! Amen.

Dr. Theodore A. Bush

Senior Pastor ❖

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:

David Rogers - January 24, 2010

Sally Theobald - February 1, 2010

Mildred Durfee - February 5, 2010

Josephine Luebke - February 5, 2010 ❖

Holy Week Music and Meditation

Monday, March 29th through **Friday, April 2nd** of Holy Week, our Sanctuary will be open for personal prayer and reflection from **noon until 1 p.m.** Our organists, Don Cannarozzi and Jim Poch, along with three other local, professional organists, will play appropriate music from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Take advantage of this opportunity to deepen your spiritual involvement during Holy Week in preparation for Easter. ❖

Palm Sunday Celebration

by Jim Poch, Associate Director of Music

As in years past, the children of our church, led by the members of the Thursday afternoon Kids' Choir, will lead our Palm Sunday worship at both services on March 28th. Arrayed in Biblical costumes, the students will reenact the response of children to Jesus entering Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday and sing a special anthem in combination with our outstanding Chancel Choir. Rehearsals will be held March 7th, 14th, and 21st at 10:30 a.m. in Room 203 of the Christian Education Building. Children must attend the rehearsals to participate. Please call Jim Poch (276-6338, ext. 24) with any questions. ❖

Deacons' Corner



by Kim Winker

MEET YOUR DEACON SUNDAY

Ring in the spring season with our annual "Meet Your Deacon Sunday" reception March 21st. This fun fellowship event is hosted by your 38 Deacons and is headed up by Deacons Judy Hodge and Verina Fugler. Join us in Fellowship Hall after the 9 a.m. service from 10 to 10:30 a.m. and after the 11 a.m. service from noon to 12:30 p.m. This is a great way for you to meet your Deacon and for your Deacon to meet you!

Enjoy good conversation while sampling delicious food and refreshments brought by the Deacons. We

Spring Golf Tournament



by Linda Prior

The Annual Spring First Presbyterian Church Golf Tournament will be held Friday afternoon, March 19th, at 2:30 p.m., at the Lakeview Golf Club on Dover Street. Come early to enter a 50-50 putting contest for \$5. Players may purchase 3 mulligans for \$3 during registration. The cost for golf, including gratuity, is \$20. Dinner will follow at 6 p.m. at the Lakeview Golf Club. A buffet of green salad, pasta, meatballs, and chicken will be available for \$10 per person.



1st Place in fall 2009 tournament. Dave Fellows and Tom Sears.

People who do not play golf are welcome to attend the dinner. Winners will be recognized at the dinner. Reservations will be taken during the fellowship hour following services on March 7th and 14th, or you may call Linda Prior, 330-0245. Reservations must be made by Monday, March 15th. ❖

hope you can join us March 21st for fellowship, food and fun.

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS...

If you are a church member and a high school senior heading off to college this summer, then the Deacons want YOU to apply for the Deacons' Scholarship.

Pick up your scholarship application in the church's main office. Hurry, the deadline for completed applications is March 21st.

The purpose of the Deacons' Scholarship is to assist deserving members of First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach who are pursuing full-time higher education and who have been involved in church and mission activities. For more information, please contact Paula Hare at 276-6338, ext. 23. ❖

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 Services

9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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

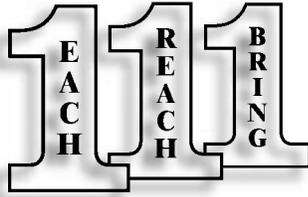
Adult Church School 10 a.m.

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.



Let's Have Some Fun!

Middle School Mission Trip

by Rev. Jankow



This summer, all incoming 6th grade through 8th grade youth are invited to go on our Middle School Mission



Trip to Ocala, Florida on June 29th to July 1st. This trip will serve as an introduction to mission as we will be participating in several different mission activities. We will be staying at Silver Springs Shores Presbyterian

Church (which has showers and a gymnasium), and we will end our time in Ocala with a fun, mystery activity. The cost is \$50, and we hope you will join us! To sign up, contact Rev. Jankow at aaronjankow@covad.net or 276-6338, ext. 13. ❖