



"Here I am, Lord"

by Noel Smith, Chair of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

A few months ago, a young man was visiting with his family along Delray Beach's famous shoreline. He was drawn to a church's tall, white steeple outlined against a piercing blue sky. Steeples were familiar architectural wonders to this individual who grew up in their shadow in Fort Lauderdale and New Jersey, and, in Ann Arbor where he serves as a Minister in Residence. His interest was piqued and he desired to learn more about this "Church by the Sea". Everything he learned drew him closer to that steeple. He did his homework. This diligence is consistent with a Phi Beta Kappa from Temple University and a Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. Happily, he learned that the church, First Presbyterian of Delray Beach, was in need of an Associate Pastor. The Reverend Joan Abell was retiring after sixteen (16) years of service and the "help wanted" sign was posted on the church website. The position was also included within the denomination's position network. As well as the steeple, this young man saw an advertisement placed in the *Presbyterian Outlook* designed by the Senior Pastor, Dr. Theodore Bush, asking:

"Do you believe enough in the transforming power of the Christian faith to inspire others to be equally excited about transforming their own lives?"

"Does the resurrection mean more to you than a spring celebration?"

"Do you want to help a congregation to grow spiritually as well as numerically?"

"Can you work well with young adults and young families?"

"Are you capable of minister-

ing to senior adults?"

"Are you a skilled teacher and preacher, blessed with a sense of humor, humility, and authenticity?"

"Are you a team player?"

"If you answered "Yes" we would like to speak with you!"

It was a sturdy envelope that arrived in the church office several days after the "sighting" of the church steeple from the beach. It was the first official application for the position. The document was twenty-three (23) pages long. Almost fifty (50) other applications or "matches" from the denomination came forward over the next two months. They were wonderful applicants; applicants with all manner of gifts and abilities. But those who read those initial 23 pages were smitten. They were being introduced to a very unique individual. In a very humble and sincere way, the questions asked by Dr. Bush in the *Presbyterian Outlook* were being answered and, "Yes" was the response.



Rev. Aaron Janklow

It was as if the chorus of the hymn by Daniel L. Schutte was being sung by our choir: "Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart."

Conversations with other applicants continued but there was a growing feeling among the Associate Pastor Search Committee that one individual was being led to our congregation. After telephone conversations with the Committee and the viewing of past sermons on a DVD, it was time to meet face-to-face with the Search Committee and other members of the congregation. In a whirlwind of breakfasts, lunches and dinners over a recent weekend, our candidate met the members of his possible future congregation. Although no votes were taken, it was easy to see that this was a match made in Heaven.

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Reflections...

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

"He's Coming"

When I saw Rev. Kinnear before the Maundy Thursday service, I mentioned to her, "Well, he's coming!" She said something like, "I know He's coming. Jesus is coming!"

Then I realized that, quite naturally, she was thinking of Easter. However, I was talking about the young candidate who had accepted our invitation to serve as our new Associate Pastor.

In the end, we both were overjoyed at the wonderful news that this young man, Aaron, felt called to serve as a minister on our staff and with our congregation. While the details of Rev. Janklow's call to serve with us are covered in detail on the front page of this newsletter. I did want to share with you some personal observations about this fine minister.

Along with the rest of the Search Committee, I am convinced that Rev. Janklow is the right person for this position. He brings great enthusiasm to the tasks at hand and can inspire people to work with him in ministry. He also has the ability to transform ideas into action.

Aaron has a sincere and an obvious concern for mission, locally and abroad. He enjoys teaching and can convey the good news of the gospel story in an intellectually stimulating way.

His maturity is a gift that will enrich his work with us and among us. The solid, spiritual foundation upon which his faith has developed should prove to be a genuine blessing to us for years to come.

While Aaron's academic credentials are outstanding, he also



has a very genuine, personal faith. Although admittedly, he does not have the answers to life's many, perplexing problems, he does understand the nature of these problems.

Everyone who has met Aaron has been enthusiastic about him and hoped that he would choose to come here. Apparently, he is equally excited about coming to be with us.

Now, I must admit that Aaron does have some faults. He is a Mets fan and, for this old Cubs fan, that is hard to swallow. However, no one is perfect all of the time, not even Aaron.

Also, to the best of our knowledge, Aaron has not yet learned how to walk on water. Perhaps with a little training and a lot of patience, he might learn how to do that! One never knows what is possible in life.

In all seriousness, I must say that my immediate reaction when I first met Aaron and later visited with him at length, was that he really will be a tremendous blessing to us as a congregation. What we need to do is to make sure that we prove to be a blessing to him. ❖

Church Staff

Theodore A. Bush, Ph.D.
Senior 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

Happy Kinnear, M.Div.
Youth Leader

Nancy Fine
Office Manager

Christine Davis
Accountant

Paula Hare
Secretary

Aaron Strippel
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The Spire

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One Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Starting Sunday, May 3rd, we will begin holding only **one** worship service at 10 a.m.

“Dreams Do Come True”

by Reece Galyon



About five or six years ago, our video recording system had heart failure and required replacement. I was asked to look into the cost and I contacted many providers of video equipment.

At that time, I was advised that the cost would be significant for the system that I had in mind and cost-prohibitive at the time.

For a number of years, I had told the church staff that a better video system was available that would do a more suitable job of recording the church service. However, the cost of such a system was extremely expensive. Therefore, the single camera that had failed was replaced.

Our video system was primarily being used to provide a VHS tape of our Sunday morning services for our shut in's. The quality of the tape was poor as well as it did not state where it came from, who was preaching or what the sermon title was. It also had no opening message or closing statement.

During that time, I suggested that we needed monitors in the Covered Patio so people sitting there could see what the single camera was seeing in the center of the Chancel. This idea was presented to our Treasurer at the time, Mr. Arthur Bartholomew. I informed him that it would cost about \$1,000 for two television monitors which I would install. He told me to "Do it". I completed that projected within two weeks.

Over the years, I have continued to research the pricing for the system I had in mind but cost was always was a factor. So my hope had diminished.

Then several months ago, out of the blue, Dr. Bush asked me again what would be the cost for the video replacement system I had been talking about. I did some research and contacted Church Multimedia, an Illinois firm that only does church installations, and explained to representative, Ken Powell, what type of system we were interested in. Fortunately, one of their installers was in the Miami area and could do a survey for us for a reasonable price. I personally contracted with that firm to complete the survey so we would have an accurate price to purchase and install the system. It was then that Dr. Bush informed me that there was someone who might be willing to donate a significant



portion of the cost.

To say the least, I was the most excited kid at First Presbyterian Church. I said to Dr. Bush, "You must be kidding?" Dr. Bush responded, "Well

Reece, sometimes it takes longer but 'dreams do come true'." A special "Thank You" to Mr. William C. Talen, who gave the principal funding for this project in loving memory of his wife, Caroline; as well as to other members of our congregation who gave additional financial support.

On Sunday, April 19th, we dedicated our new DVD audio-visual recording system. People seated in the Covered Patio now see themselves on the monitors and they see much more of what occurs during the Sunday service.

The new system contains two cameras, a DVD/VHS recorder, mixing rack, DVD duplicator, and DVD disc printer. A laptop computer was donated from the office equipment to round out the hardware. We are still learning

the system but the kinks soon should be worked out.

With the addition of this new equipment, we have expanded our outreach program. There still a few more dreams that I have to bring our church into the 21st century. We shall see. ❖



“Twenty-five Years!”

The Theodore Bush 25th Anniversary Committee

On Sunday, November 15th, First Presbyterian of Delray Beach will celebrate twenty-five years under the pastorship of Dr. Theodore Bush. An event is being planned to honor Dr. Bush and his amazing family; wife, Mary, daughters Beth and Jenny and, their beloved son, Teddy. The gathering is planned for Fellowship Hall following the 11 a.m. worship service. This milestone event will also be recognized at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on the same date. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this celebration. More details will be available in upcoming issues of *The Spire* as we get closer to the date. ❖

"Here I am, Lord"

Continued from Page 1

The following week, the Associate Pastor Search Committee, the Session and the Trustees all met to deliberate. It was unanimous! Not an easy task among Presbyterians. This individual would have the support of all the Committee members, Elders and Trustees in a recommendation to the congregation for a vote on May 3, 2009.

However, there was one additional item that needed attention. Our candidate had to accept our invitation for a Call. The Committee was very aware that this young man was popular indeed. He was in the sights of other congregations in the denomination. Delray Beach was not the only church that recognized his gifts. A time of prayerful reflection took place over that week. Dr. Bush encouraged all to be respectful of the important decision that was under consideration. Time passed.

Just before Easter, the call came in to Dr. Bush. It was our candidate. The answer was an enthusiastic "Yes" to the Call. Dates were set up to meet with the Committee on Ministry and the Presbytery. A Special Congregation Meeting would be called. There was work to be done. The church bell did

not ring and no white smoke drifted from the bell tower, but that would not have made any difference to the broad smiles around the office. "He's coming to Delray Beach!" "He's coming to Delray Beach!"

Everyone fully expects the congregation will vote for and welcome our new Associate Pastor, The Reverend Aaron Philip Janklow.

NOTE: The church appreciates the fine and tireless work of the Associate Pastor Search Committee, Noel Smith, Chair, Jerry Barding, Dr. Ted Bush, Tom Elliott, Dr. Jim Fisher, Dr. Beth King, Tim Knapp, Pat Moss, Mary Jane Sickel, Rob Tanner and Bob Teninga. Special thanks to Kellen Smith who went to the A.P.C.E. meeting on our behalf and also interviewed candidates.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: Rev. Janklow's complete resume and Personal Information Form (PIF) will be provided to members of the congregation at the Special Congregational Meeting on May 3rd, immediately following the worship service.

"God spoke to Israel in visions of the night, and said, 'Jacob, Jacob.' And He said, 'Here I am.'"
Genesis 46:2

Palm Sunday Children's Drama

On Palm Sunday, April 5th, the children of our church presented a Chancel Drama written by Jim Poch, our Associate Director of Music. ❖



Mission Project Workday

by *Jeanne Heavilin*

It was a glorious day on February 28th when the volunteers from First Presbyterian Church left the church parking lot. None of us knew what to expect, but after we arrived at our destination, we knew the Lord had sent us to the right places.

Upon surveying the house on S.W. 7th Avenue in Delray and meeting Junior, the blind owner, we found that the house was in dire need of cleaning and fresh paint. The team, Warren Boos, Jim Westby, Sandy and Bud Shine, Bob Kay and Richard Schaublin, arrived at about 9 a.m. Our efforts concentrated on cleaning and painting the living room, kitchen and bathroom. By the time we left at 4:30 p.m., Junior's house had a fresh new look, thanks to everyone who gave their time and hard work to help someone who was truly in need.



A few blocks



away on S.W. 10th Avenue, Shirley's house desperately needed to be painted after hurricane repairs had been made. Our "other" team, Mary Jane Sickel, Kari Shipley, Marshall Duane, Becky and Tim Knapp, Miles Knapp, Bob Anderson and Jeanne Heavilin along with Shirley's nephew Zak, set to work scraping, sanding, priming and painting. Fortunately, Marshall and Tim had pressure cleaned it the weekend prior to our visit. By the end of the day, the entire exterior had been painted. Crew Chief David Fellows kept us all on task and made sure both of our teams had the necessary supplies. Jeane Forrest kept our energy levels high by providing lunch. Shirley, bedridden as a result of two strokes and barely able to talk, called us in to her room before we left to thank us for her "miracle". She was hoping to have someone bring her outside the next day to see her "new" house.

We were indeed fortunate to have met Junior and Shirley and to be able to show them that we care and that, by working together, we can accomplish much. ❖

90+ Birthday Party

The Annual Happy Birthday Party/Luncheon for the 90 plus years young members of our church family was held on Sunday, March 29th, at noon in Fellowship Hall. ❖



Deacons' Sunday 2009

by Richard Schaublin



A good time was had by all! From all of the smiling faces and full plates of lovely food, it was obvious that Deacons' Sunday 2009, which was held on March 22nd, was a great success. The Deacons provided the refreshments, but our

wonderful church members brought their cheer and goodwill as they met and chatted with their Deacon. Special thanks to Judy Hodge and Verina Fugler for heading up and coordinating this yearly event.

We are all very lucky and blessed to have a number of annual, traditional events here at First Presbyterian Church. Deacons' Sunday has become one of them. If you're not participating in these fun events yet, then you may be missing one of the true blessings of our congregation. Your Deacons are here to serve you, so if you ever have suggestions on future events or would like to become



more involved in church activities, please ask us! (Pictures clockwise: Grant Winker and Elfriede Gruendig, Pat Duane and Edna Fisher, Joan Tanner, Gayle Stevens, Kari Shipley and Richard Schaublin) ❖



A "Couple" of Deacons

by Kim Winker

Our church did something special for the first time this year. It was to allow spouses to join their Deacon wife or husband on the Board of Deacons so they could serve together. One of those spouses who recently joined her husband to serve as a Deacon is Beverley Price.

Beverley, a native of New Brighton, Pennsylvania, has lived in Delray Beach for the past five years since she and Ron were married in our church's Sanctuary by Dr. Bush. She became a member shortly after her nuptials to Ron, who has been a long-time member.

Being a Deacon comes easy to Beverley because she excels at taking care of others. "All my life I wanted to be a Registered Nurse," she says. She received her R.N. at The Western Pennsylvania School of Nursing (West Penn) in Pittsburgh and went on to have a successful career at the school, carrying several titles throughout her tenure there from Head Nurse to Assistant Director of Nursing. When her first husband was in the Army in Panama, she joined him and worked as a nurse at Gorgus Hospital in Balboa, Panama.

Beverley not only nurtured others in her career, but she also has been a caretaker in her personal life by



serving as a Deacon at her Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh and providing care for young children in the nursery there. Having the chance to be a Deacon and serve our church beside her husband was just in line with what she wanted to do. "I have always enjoyed working for the church and thought being a Deacon here and serving our congregation would be quite an honor."

When Beverley is not busy with Deacon duties, she spends time with Ron and their five children and six grandchildren between them, and she enjoys attending PGA and LPGA golfing tournaments with Ron. Beverley is also active in the alumni group at West Penn.

We are blessed to have both Beverley and Ron as dedicated Deacons serving our church! ❖

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:

Dorothy Duda - March 28, 2009

Norma Luxford - April 13, 2009

Genevieve Pelikan - April 16, 2009 ❖



Presbyterian Women

by Carol Possanza

On Saturday, March 28th, the Presbyterian Women held a luncheon and fashion show in our Fellowship Hall. Approximately 90 women enjoyed wonderful fellowship, a delicious lunch and an entertaining fashion show. Some of the lovely women of our congregation modeled as did their

children and grandchildren.

We would like to extend an invitation to all the women in our congregation to join us in support of the mission of our church. The Presbyterian Women's Circle meets on the first Wednesday morning of each month from October to April. Join us next year. ❖



Church Improvement Committee

The Holly House is now in full swing making items for our November Bazaar. We hope you can join us. We meet at 39 Gleason Street every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Bring your lunch and socialize with some lovely ladies from our church family. Remember, we meet most of the summer when some of your winter activities have closed and friends have gone north. Come join us.

Last August, we moved to 39 Gleason Street. It has taken us a while to adjust to a new setting, but we are finally settling in even though we may forget on which shelf or where an item is stored.

If you have some unwanted costume jewelry, please bring it anytime to the Holly House or church office. It takes time to clean, sort and price the jewelry for the Bazaar and Rummage Sale.

If you have any questions concerning the Holly House, please contact Regie Moorcroft at 495-5376. ❖

Food Pantry Food Drive

by Mary Jane Sichel

During the months of May and October of each year, the members of First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach have generously supported the food drive that we hold for the Delray Beach Food Pantry.

The Pantry serves families like: Hazel, a dental assistant, raising her granddaughter, who came home one night to find their small trailer home burned to the ground; Margaret, who woke up one morning to find her husband had left her, leaving her to raise their six children; Veronica and Jack, who are senior citizens and get only \$40 a month in food stamps. During the summer, they help their daughter by taking care of their five grandchildren while she is at work. The Pantry helps them monthly with food and gives them more during the summer for their grandkids. Janet was applying for food stamps and has her daughter and two grandchildren living with her. She and her daughter have jobs, but it is not enough to cover living expenses and provide food for the family.

In the first half of 2008, there was a 50% increase in need over 2007, which had already increased by 55% over 2006. Beginning in July, the Food Pantry had to cut back how often they assisted people, yet still had a 12% increase over 2007. In 2008, they helped over 46,800 people, almost half of whom were children.

During May, items needed for our church food drive are cereals, peanut butter, canned fish and meat (e.g., tuna, spam, etc.), canned vegetables, canned fruit, soup, pasta/spaghetti, rice, macaroni and cheese and tomato sauce. They can be brought to the church and put in the back of the Narthex.

In our Narthex, we have a stained glass window reminding us to carry out the commands of Jesus. We are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, provide shelter for the homeless and clothe the naked.

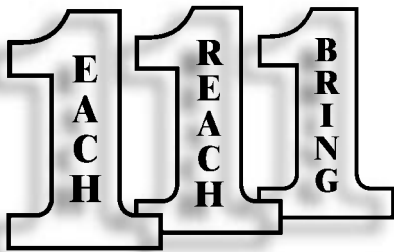
I hope that we can count on each of you to fill a bag with the items so desperately needed. Thank you. ❖

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 Service
10 a.m.**

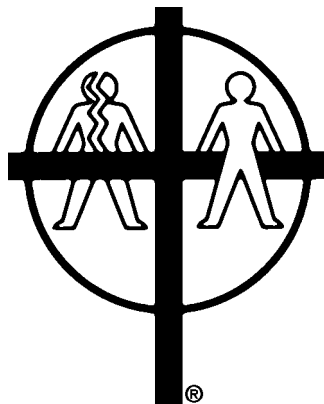
Please join us on Sunday mornings as we worship the Living God together.




**Stephen
Ministry**

by Dick Walgrove

*“Confidentiality
in Stephen
Ministry”*



Anyone who is in need of a caring listener and wishes to meet with a Stephen Minister should know and understand that Stephen Ministers treat the very existence of the caring relationship as confidential information. Only under exceptional circumstances in potential suicide, homicide and child abuse may a Stephen Minister reveal the name of his or her care receiver to the Minister or a Stephen leader or acknowledge that a caring relationship exists. All communications between care givers and care receivers, all observations or impressions the care giver gathers about their care receivers, and any and all records pertaining to care receivers must remain confidential unless the care receiver gives the care giver his or her permission to share them. ❖

 **Prayer Concerns**

Please use the reverse side of this card to write concerns of those you know who would appreciate our prayers.

You may place this card in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

All prayer concerns will be forwarded to members of our Prayer Chain and to the pastoral staff.

If you prefer that the information be kept confidential, please make a notation on the card that you would like for a pastor to contact you. Please include your name and phone number.

First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach
33 Gleason Street
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“Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble and God saved them from their distress.”
 Psalm 107:19

(Your Name, Phone Number and Today's Date)

Prayer Concerns cards are in the pews. Please take a moment and complete one if you have a prayer concern. Place your completed card in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Concerns will be forwarded to members of the Prayer Chain and pastoral staff. ❖