



Church Improvement

by Barbara Vanderkay

Another year has rolled around and it is almost time for our traditional **Holly Days Bazaar**. Mark your calendars for the weekend of **Friday, November 13th** and **Saturday, November 14th** from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The usual pre-sale for members and regular church attendees will be open from **2 to 4 p.m.** on **Thursday, November 12th**.

On Friday and Saturday, lunch will be served by the Men's Club from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Patio. Shop for a while and then sit with your friends and relax while you enjoy your lunch and compare your finds.

We will have some things you might remember from last year, as there are perennial favorites that sell out every year. There are decorated Christmas trees of all sizes, unusual ornaments and presents for all ages.

This year, there are a variety of Christmas tree pins and custom-made jewelry by some of our talented Holly House ladies, as well as the usual Jewelry Table laden with donated costume jewelry at giveaway prices. (That is in the Covered Patio with our renowned Food Table displaying the delicious home-



baked goodies contributed by our Presbyterian cooks as well as our mango jam and zucchini relish. Don't forget to stop in there.)

In Fellowship Hall, there are many selections of purses, some new crocheted ones and special "designer" purses made in Holly House. Of course, there are aprons for mothers or daughters and cute beach cover-ups for girls. At the dog and cat boutique, there are gifts for your four footed friends, or friends of friends.

Once again, Fellowship Hall cannot hold all of our offerings, so the tent in the Courtyard will display certain things. The Bargain Area is also on the Patio, as in past years.

Now that we have whetted your appetite for the Bazaar, how about joining us as a worker? It's not hard work, and you couldn't ask for nicer co-workers or customers. Sign-up sheets are enclosed in the Sunday bulletins for your convenience. This is really an all-church event. Many hands are needed to ensure the proverbial "light work". And here's another cliché that applies: "The more the merrier!"

P.S. If you need more shopping time, our *Holiday Craft Sale* at the Bronson House, 16 Bronson Avenue, northeast of the church, will be open **Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** starting **Saturday, November 21st through Saturday, December 19th**.

Come whenever you can, we'll be glad to wish you your first Merry Christmas of 2009! ❖



November 8th!

by Noel Smith

Sunday, November 8th, will mark an historic occasion for First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach and our Senior Pastor, Dr. Theodore "Ted" Bush. The date will mark twenty-five (25) years of Dr. Bush's sermons and prayers, counseling and hospital visits, baptisms and memorials, weddings and community outreach. That is over one thousand (1,000) appearances in our pulpit with messages of encouragement and hope, not to mention those quiet conversations when we needed a listening ear. Dr. Bush has always been there for us. Now is your chance to be there for him. Attend either the 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. service. A reception will follow the 11 a.m. service. See you in church! ❖

Starting Sunday, November 1st, we will be returning to two worship services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

INSIDE . . .

Reflections Page 2
Dr. Bush

Youth & Young Professionals . Page 3
Rev. Aaron Janklow

Stewardship Campaign . . . Page 4
Kurt Bagwell

Reflections...

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

"Giving Thanks"

Every November, the season of giving thanks arrives. Up north, the season becomes physically more noticeable. Almost as a preparation for the arrival of Thanksgiving Day itself, the colors of the leaves change to a variety of beautiful hues, the weather cools considerably and holiday cooking adds to the festivities.



Here, in South Florida, the weather this year has not cooled off. As I write this, we still are waiting for the temperatures to dip to normal. The leaves never really change like they do up north. However, the holiday cooking does help to remind us that the season for giving thanks is here.

Somewhere in the back of our minds, we may be urged by the familiar admonishment to "Count our blessings, name them one by one. See what many blessings our God has done."

Every Thanksgiving, we are urged to count our blessings. Yet, how many of us actually take the time to do this? Is it once a year? Is it once a month? Do we count them daily?

Counting our every blessing is not as easy as it sounds. I tried it recently and finally concluded that I have been fortunate enough in life to have more blessings than I realized. Something tells me that I am not the only person who can say this about themselves. I imagine that when we get down to nam-

ing our every blessing, there are a lot of people who have concluded the same thing.

Whenever we are struggling with serious problems, it may be difficult to be thankful. Yet, the very fact that

God is with us, supporting us through whatever we must endure, is a blessing unto itself. Regardless of how much adversity may be confronting us, in spite of whatever physical or psychological pain we have had to experience, in many ways, we still may find ourselves to be a blessed people.

So it is that during this season of Thanksgiving we are encouraged to truly give thanks. As we ponder how we should thank God for every blessing that we have been fortunate enough to receive, let us do so with hearts and minds that truly express our profound gratitude to the Almighty. We may be pleasantly surprised to realize how good being thankful makes us feel. We also may discover how much our personal expressions of gratitude to others will lift their spirits as well. Have a blessed Thanksgiving. ❖



November 26th, 2009

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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The Spire

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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.

Youth and Young Professionals



by Rev. Aaron Janklow

The past couple of months have been busy ones for our Youth and Young Professionals.

Aside from weekly **Middle and High School Youth Group** meetings on Sunday nights, the youth have had two beach events and a lock-in, including an Amazing Race which took them all over Delray Beach in pursuit of their next clue. We've had great turnouts and for that I want to thank the youth for coming out to these events (it is so much more fun with all of you there!) and inviting their friends. I also want to thank their parents for encouraging and helping those in the program, as well as thanking the congregation for its support. We always welcome new people to all of our youth events, so I really hope that if you haven't joined us for an event or weekly youth group meeting, you'll give us a chance. It is a terrific group and we always have fun!



Middle School meets Sunday nights from 5 to 6:30 p.m., and **High School** meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. There is a time of shared dinner at 6 p.m. Also on November 13th will be the monthly Beach Event when we have combined Middle and High School Youth Groups from 5 to 7 p.m. and meet for fun on the beach. We play volleyball, badminton, eat pizza, and have a great time enjoying the beach located so close to our church!

Contact Rev. Aaron Janklow for information about any of youth activities, aaronjanklow@covad.net, or 276-6338, ext. 13.

TnT, Twenties n' Thirties, is going strong! We continue to meet the first and third Wednesday of every month, and have social activities scheduled frequently. At each meeting, we look at different elements of the Christian faith and examine how they impact our lives. In addition, we gathered for a night of board games, which was a great way to get to know one another and just have fun. Upcoming activities

include a night out for dinner, movie night, and mission projects. Some of these are planned activities, others just happen as we form friendships. Regardless of the event, you are invited. Just let me know if you're interested by emailing me (aaronjanklow@covad.net). We always welcome new people. If this group is for you, we look forward to seeing you. ❖

A Renovated Youth House

The youth of this congregation thank the late Elsa Robinson for her wonderful donation to the Youth House. If you have not yet visited the renovated Youth House, we invite you to do so one Sunday morning. You may not recognize it at first! Elsa's gift made these improvements possible, and we thank her for thinking of our youth. This was a wonderful way to show our youth and their families that they are valued and vital members of our congregation. Thank you.

This year, both the middle and high school youth groups have grown, and the new floor plan and seating of the renovated Youth House not only makes it a more appealing place to gather, but provides necessary changes to accommodate our increasing numbers. We thank Elsa for this gift and lasting legacy to the church. It is truly valued by our youth, their families, and the congregation.

In addition to thanking Elsa and her family, I would also like to thank Bob Teninga, Chair of the Property Committee, for guiding us in these renovations. He truly helped us to use Elsa's gift efficiently and effectively. ❖



Stewardship Campaign 2010 - "Giving from the Heart"

by Kurt Bagwell, Chair, Stewardship Committee

*"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart."
(Psalms 111:1a)*

It is hard to believe it is already eleven months into the year and the Church leadership team is planning the budget to support all of the great activities and programs that emanate from our congregation. Despite the tough times faced all around us over the past couple of years, our church has been blessed with the strength to survive and thrive thanks to all of you who stay involved with your donations of time and talent as well as financial contributions. With Rev. Janklow's recent arrival, a resurgent youth program, and a renewed focus in many other areas of our congregation, along with optimism for the revival of the economy around us, I feel a surge of energy and confidence that is exciting! Our church is our foundation, and with everyone's continued support, it will continue to provide the platform we all need to lean on and flourish from - spiritually, socially, professionally, as individuals and as a focused congregation, serving our Lord and the community around us.

Our estimated budget for 2010 is just over \$1.3 million dollars, a slight increase from 2009. We hope to raise this entire amount in funding through pledges from members, collection plate offerings from visitors, and special gifts. Our pledge goal for 2010 from our members is one million dollars. The actual 2009 pledges were just over \$900,000, so we are looking to raise about 10 % more from our members for 2010.

In 2009, and the previous couple of years before that, we have had to pull from our reserve funds to make up the difference between our budget and our actual collections. In 2010, we hope to close that gap or at least come very close, as we can't continue to count on our reserves forever.

As I thought through my new role here leading our Stewardship efforts, I struggled mightily with the need

to educate and encourage each of you on our economic position, while also trying to keep our fundraising activities from interfering with our spiritual journey. In a perfect world, all the money we needed to support God's work would just show up; but in the real world we have to ask for it.

The major components of our budget each year revolve around the following:

- Ministry • Mission • Christian Education
- Music • Youth
- Administration/physical operations/buildings/insurance

We are very blessed to own our facilities outright and only have to pay for maintenance and utilities. The rest of the organization and budget are equally lean and efficient. Overall, we continue to manage this delicate balance to keep our costs down while continuing to support all our programs and activities. A big piece of that accomplishment is created by all your donations of time and talent, and that should never be overlooked since it is a major part of what makes our church go around.

With Rev. Janklow's arrival this year, a quickly growing and flourishing youth program, and all the other great things we accomplish through our congregation, along with a light at the end of the tunnel for better economic times, I hope that you see clearly to "give from the heart" in 2010 and we will continue to prosper!

Stewardship Sunday is November 22nd. I ask that you join me in saying "I pledged." ❖



What Giving Means to Me

by Mitchell Del Mastro, Age 10

Giving. Giving could be a feeling you get when you do some-

thing kind or generous. It also could mean giving your new toy away to someone who doesn't have any, or volunteering at a nursing home. Whatever it is you do to help someone that is a gift to them; that is giving. In times when everyone's ignoring someone because they're small, big, or different and you go talk to them, that is kind-

ness; that is giving. To me, giving is a feeling that I get when I do anything to help anyone especially when I'm scared to. The feeling makes you feel warm inside like you've done the right thing and you have. Giving is the fact that I know I am taking away from me but giving to them. That is what giving means to me. ❖

Stewardship and Community

by Rett Talbot

“Stewardship” refers to the duties of being a *fiscal agent*, as defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

“Community” – yes, it is a new NBC television sitcom with Chevy Chase (Thursdays at 9:30 p.m., in case you are interested) but for our purpose it is defined by Merriam-Webster as *a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society*.

What I would like to submit to you is an idea about how community requires stewardship and thus the responsibility we have to be supportive fiscal agents of the community, whatever community that might be.

Every one of us is a part of many communities. Some obvious examples are the city we reside in, our county of residence, and those with whom we work as well as the larger community of people in our trade or profession. We also have alumnae communities, the neighborhood we live in, the school community our children may attend, and social or recreational activity associations. Some of our communities are closely knit, others loose associations, yet virtually all require some form of commitment to support and sustain the group.

First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach is one of our communities, and an important one at that. As members, we know that we are called on to give our time, talent and fiscal support. However, unlike paying taxes as part of a city or county or paying a membership fee or making a donation to a school, each of us has to consider what the ongoing cost of preserving this community is and make a pledge to be a good fiscal agent for continuing the work and services of the church. We have to declare our stewardship for the community.

Our theme this year is “Giving from the Heart.” We hope you deeply value what you give and what you receive from our spiritual community, and hope that it is easy for you to “give from the heart” in supporting our continued success! ❖



Stewardship

by Rob Tanner

Stewardship season is upon us again. It is now time to take an accounting of the needs of our church. Our critical role as members is to share our blessings and gifts to keep our community of faith in good working order. I suspect that sometimes those of us who commit to the church lose sight of how our gifts support many wonderful programs beyond the obvious use of our pledges for the upkeep and enhancement of our beautiful church and its campus.

Over the past several years, if you have been privileged to witness our Youth Sunday, as an example of our joint investment at work, you can see that the money you contribute has helped many young people become connected to Christ. Our three daughters are

Thoughts on Stewardship

by Judy Hodge, Deacon



As we have all watched our resources dwindle this year, the thought of generous tithing may make us uncomfortable. I know it did for me, until I thought about the importance of this church in my life. Would I mind if the church and buildings were just a bit shabby, if the programs were fewer, the music a bit less beautiful or the outreach a little less? I sure would! I know I want to make myself more worthy of the Lord, so I could want no less for His place of worship and quality of worship. ❖



direct beneficiaries of our church youth programs that for each of them have made a specific Christian impact by what our church has provided to them that will continue to feed their Christian spirit throughout their lives. With youth leadership now supported by our new Associate Pastor, Rev. Aaron, it is allowing our church to lead even more children and youth into Christian fellowship, Christian teachings, and activities that allow them to grow in their relationship with Christ.

As you fill out your stewardship pledge card, please be assured that beyond the things you might easily see at work in our church also has a much deeper impact. Understand that the dollars you give, directly and specifically support our beliefs and faith to live into the future in ways that are important to the life of a child or youth to carry on in adulthood and perhaps pay unanticipated dividends. Your commitment is a wonderful investment with great rewards. ❖

In the Swing of Things

Deacons' Christmas Tree Coming Soon!

by Richard Schaublin

Remember when we were young and it was time each year to go back to school? That's the feeling I'm having now that summer is over. It's a nice time and a nice feeling. Lots of our friends are back from their summer locations, Dr. Bush is back from Chicago and, as usual, his beloved Cubs have gone nowhere in the baseball world.

As we get back into the swing of things this season, we can look forward to our traditional events including our Deacons' Christmas Tree, which makes holiday dreams a little brighter for impoverished children in our area. Look for the festive Christmas tree to be displayed in the Narthex beginning November 22nd. On November 22nd, November 29th and December 6th, you can take a



paper ornament from the tree and fulfill a Christmas wish for a child from one of these agencies: Adopt-a-Family, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA), Achievement Center for Children & Families, C.R.O.S. Urban Ministries, Milagro Center and Rolling Green Elementary School.

All gifts are due under the tree by Sunday, December 13th, so the Deacons can sort and distribute them. If you prefer to give a monetary donation and have a Deacon shop for you, we ask that you please put your check in the Sunday offering or mail it to the church office, marking "Deacons' Tree" on the memo line, no later than Sunday, December 6th.

Not that anyone forgot the Lord over the summer, He is never on vacation, but I hope you share the good feeling of seeing old friends, enjoying two services, getting to know our new Associate Pastor, Reverend Aaron Janklow, and being part of the wonderful holiday season and all that it means. Welcome back everyone! As excited children on Christmas morning can attest, anything can happen when we believe...why, even the Cubs could...well, that would come under miracles! ❖



Holiday Happenings for Children

November 29th	10 a.m.	Family Craft Project
December 6th	11 a.m.	Children's Christmas Pageant
December 13th	4 p.m.	Caroling by Trolley

Mark your calendar and watch for details in the Sunday Bulletin and in the December issue of *The Spire*. ❖



Monday Book Group

by Linda Prior

The Monday Book Group meets once a month on Monday afternoons through April at 12:30 p.m. in the Christian Learning Center. Listed below are the books that will be discussed this season. Join us.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>November 2, 2009
December 7, 2009
January 4, 2010</p> | <p><u>March</u> by Geraldine Brooks
<u>Revolutionary Road</u> by Richard Yates
<u>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</u> by Mary Ann Shaffer and Anne Barrows</p> |
| <p>February 1, 2010
March 8, 2010
April 5, 2010</p> | <p><u>The Book Thief</u> by Lesley West
<u>Loving Frank</u> by Nancy Horan
<u>The Shack</u> by William P. Young ❖</p> |

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:

- Hildegard Sharpe - May 2, 2009
- Virginia Hinkel - September 30, 2009
- Thomas O'Hara - October 3, 2009
- Elsa Robinson - October 13, 2009 ❖

Keep your eye out and pluck a feather from the

Thanksgiving Turkey



Coming to the Courtyard on November 1st
by Becky Knapp



Gobble-Gobble!

Adopt a Delray Beach family for Thanksgiving by providing for them the ingredients for a delicious, traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Office Depot is supplying the frozen turkeys, and CROS Ministries is making the direct connection of distribution to less fortunate families right here in Delray Beach.

We are all God's children, and each one of us can make a difference...

1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1



We have 65 families of 5-6 members who will need the items which are clearly listed on the Turkey feather.

- *Thanksgiving in a Box ingredient/shopping list
- *packing instructions
- *delivery date Nov. 15th to the Narthex
- *please decorate the outside of the boxes

We will supply the boxes to maintain uniformity for ease in storage and distribution. ❖

Hanging of the Greens

by Rev. Jo Garnett

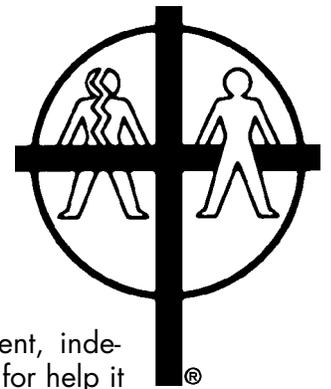


Please join us on Sunday Evening, November 22nd at 7 p.m. as we decorate the Sanctuary in preparation for the beginning of Advent. The Hanging of the Greens is a special worship service filled with familiar carols and traditions as we look to the coming of the Christ Child. ❖

Sometimes It's Hard to Ask for Help

by Rev. Jo Garnett

We are brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help it is a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that is not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to care for others and allow others to care for us in our time of need. If you would like a Christian friend to walk with you during a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers are trained, caring men and women who will be that kind of confidential friend. For more information, call Rev. Garnett (901-0221). ❖



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH OF DELRAY BEACH

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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.

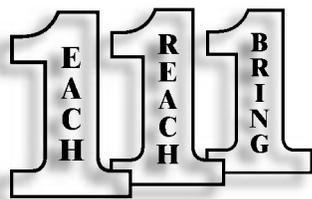
Adult Church School 10 a.m.

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. If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter, please email Nancy Fine at nancyfine@covad.net.

Estate Planning and Planned Giving Seminar

Hosted by Kurt Bagwell, Sr. – Church Elder and Trustee

Presented by Manley H. Thaler, Esquire, Thaler & Thaler, PA

Friday December 4, 2009 in Fellowship Hall from noon to 1:30 p.m. A hot lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 2nd to Nancy Fine at 276-6338, ext. 10 or by email (nancyfine@covad.net).

Topics To Be Discussed:

I Domicile in Florida - Why you may want to be a Florida resident and how to become domiciled in Florida.

II Jointly Held Property - You can avoid costly probate expenses if your property is titled appropriately but be careful, there are joint ownership traps to avoid.

III Estate Planning - Wills, Revocable & Irrevocable Trusts, Healthcare Documents, Gift Trusts and Special Needs Trusts

IV Financial Planning, IRAs & Pension Funds - Be sure that your assets are titled correctly.

An Estate is not a proper beneficiary of your investments.

V Charitable Giving & Tax Benefits of Giving to Your Charity - Charitable Remainder Trusts, Charitable Lead Annuity Trusts, Charitable Gift Annuities, Pooled Income Funds, Making a Bequest in your Will

About the Speaker:

MANLEY H. THALER graduated from Cornell University with A.B. and Juris Doctor degrees. Admitted to the New York Bar in 1953 and to the Florida Bar in 1977. Licensed to practice in the U.S. District Courts in Florida, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, all District Courts in the State of New York, Second Circuit Court of Appeals and U.S. Supreme Court. Member of the American Bar Association, New York Bar Association and Florida Bar Association; member of the Real Property, Probate, Estate Planning and Tax sections of the Bar and noted estate planning lecturer. Attorney Thaler is the managing partner at Thaler & Thaler, PA, with offices in West Palm Beach, Boca Raton and Tallahassee. ❖