



HANGING OF THE GREENS DINNER AND WORSHIP SERVICE

Please join us on Sunday, November 25th at 5:30 p.m. for a dinner in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$5 per person. You may RSVP for the dinner on our website (www.firstdelray.com) under Upcoming Events or call Paula Hare at 276-6338. This will help us with our planning. Then at 7 p.m., join us 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. We will also decorate the Chrismon Tree. If you are unable to attend the dinner, do plan to attend the worship service. ❖



by Chris Del Mastro

Come one, come all . . .

. . . to our Fall Festival on Sunday, November 18th at noon, following the second worship service. There will be hot dogs, clowns, games, a bounce house and, we hope, you. Come join in the fun or just sit back and enjoy a hot dog and watch the festivities. Register on our website (www.firstdelray.com) under Upcoming Events or call Paula Hare (276-6338, ext. 23) so that we can plan accordingly. ❖

Two Worship Services

On Sunday, November 4th, we will resume two services

9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

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From My Heart to Yours

by **Dr. W. Douglas Hood, Jr.**
Senior Pastor



Early in my ministry, I sat with a Pastor Nominating Committee for my last interview with them. Three candidates were left under consideration by the church and I was the last one to preach for the committee and participate once more in a round of interview questions. One member of that committee continues to be one of my heroes of the Christian faith. Her name was Irma Byrd and when I learned of her death only a few years ago I wept.

The interview process proceeded this way. The chair of the search committee had members introduce themselves once more, immediately followed by any question they wanted to ask. Scripted questions by the committee had been exhausted in prior interviews. When it was Mrs. Byrd's turn she failed to introduce herself. She went right to her question. It was clear that the question had some urgency for her. "I am a widow and live alone. I have no pension, no income except \$800 in a monthly social security check. How much do you think I should be giving to the church?" It was apparent that each member of the committee expected the question. It must have been asked of the other two candidates. And everyone seemed to be holding his breath. I wasn't breathing either and my heart was racing. This felt like one of those trick questions men hear from their wives early in their marriage. Could I win this one?

After a quick silent prayer and telling myself to breathe, I remembered something an Old Testament professor once advised, "When the question is pointed and potentially one that can undo you, always hide behind the Bible. Don't give your opinion. Tell them what the Bible says."

I used that advice for the first time in my short ministry. "The Bible teaches that God's standard is the tithe, ten percent of your income. Ten percent of \$800 is \$80 a month. That is what the Bible teaches." I carefully began and ended my answer with, "The Bible teaches."

Mrs. Byrd turned away from me and looked directly at the chair of the search committee, rising to her feet. "He is the first candidate to have the courage to tell me what the Bible teaches. I want him and I have nothing more to say. I'm going home." And she simply walked out the door. I was called as pastor and for six years, before I accepted another call, Mrs. Byrd demonstrated in many marvelous ways what it meant to live as if God's promises were true and could be trusted. She never had much. But she always had enough.

This month, we launch our financial campaign to support next year's ministry. It is the one time each year we talk about money and ask for your financial help for our shared ministry. The theme of the campaign is *Stories of Faith, Building Tomorrow*. Stories have incredible power to shape us and move us to change our hearts, minds, and habits for Jesus. If you have a story about faith and money, I hope that you will share it with me. I would like to use it either in my blog, the newsletter or share it from the pulpit. Your story can make a difference in the formation of Christian character for this church. I look forward to hearing from you. ❖

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Pastor Emeritus

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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.

DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS

Five Minutes for Spiritual Formation

by Dr. W. Douglas Hood

Senior Pastor

It is now widely acknowledged that people are continually being shaped by their culture and environment. Pop culture has formed us, has made disciples of us, through the influence of advertising and peer pressure. We feel that we must dress like everyone else, live like everyone else, spend our resources and behave like everyone else. Certainly we work hard to have nice things but perhaps that is part of the problem. We work so hard that we miss what really matters, significant relationship time with those we love and with Jesus. We have “conformed” to the world.

The consequence has been disastrous for people who want to live for Jesus. Many people who sincerely want to follow Jesus find that they look less like Him and more like the rest of the world. It all has to do with what influences they have allowed to “shape” them. Roger

Helland and Leonard Hjalmanson state it beautifully, “We must develop practices that counteract culture and conform us to Christ.” The suggestion here is that what we need is not more Bible study, more teaching of correct beliefs or right thinking. What is required is right action.

Regular habits, or practices, shape us and form us. As such, followers of Jesus must consider carefully what practices will form within us His character. Naturally, the best place to look for such practices is Jesus’ own life. These formative practices, carefully developed over time, will result in a natural change of behavior and a new way of thinking. What we are talking about here is not earning God’s love. Formative practices are a response to that love, our desire to be like our Heavenly Father who has demonstrated His love for us in the person of Jesus Christ.



A Basic Approach to Spiritual Formation & Discipleship



Formative Practices

Formative practices, intentional disciplines or habits, are how we make our home in Christ rather than in the world. They are lifestyle routines that help us keep on track in living into the life and character of Jesus. Five formative practices that are generally considered fundamental are, worship regularly, pray daily, learn and apply God’s Word, participate in a ministry and give financially to the work of the church.



Time in Solitude with God

Spiritual formation and growth require a growing attentiveness to God, to where God is active in our lives, and to where we are being led. This attentiveness requires that we regularly make a place in our lives to sense God’s presence and to hear God speak. This is a time for reading the Bible, prayer and sitting before God in silence.



Time in Community of a Small Group

The Kingdom of God is relational. A decision to follow Jesus and grow in His likeness cannot be accomplished alone. The Apostle Paul teaches in his letter of Romans that, though Christian discipleship is intensely personal, it is corporate in character (Romans 12: 3-5). Regularly meet with a small group and commit to the study of the Bible using this basic structure: Read, Reflect and Respond. Additionally, small group members hold one another accountable for spiritual growth and offer encouragement.



Time Sharing Your Faith with Another

Our daily conversations do more than provide a running narrative of our lives; such conversations shape our experiences, practices and life with one another. Ultimately, spiritual formation is the quality of life we live. That life develops positively in the manner of Jesus as we regularly make time to share with another our personal growth in faith.

© W. Douglas Hood, Jr.

Church Improvement Committee

by Barbara Vanderkay



This is your final Spire reminder about the Holly Days Bazaar, starting on Thursday, November 8th, 2 to 4 p.m. (for members and regular church attendees only), Friday, November 9th and Saturday, November 10th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sign-up sheets are available in the Sunday Bulletin. Please fill one out, put it in the collection plate, leave it in the church office or give it to a board member. Regie Moorcroft is always willing to answer any questions (495- 5376).

If you aren't able to work for the bazaar, please come as a customer. Our delicious homemade baked goods will enhance your reputation as a hostess, or can be unusual hostess gifts when you are invited to have dinner with friends. Don't forget Thanksgiving.

As we do every year, we offer new editions of our most popular things from previous sell-out tables as well as new articles produced in our workshops. Our old standbys, mango chutney, mango jam, zucchini relish and watermelon pickles are ready, as are aprons for mothers and daughters, decorated Christmas trees and a nice assortment of costume jewelry located near the bakery table in the Covered Patio.

There are a variety of different angels and very attractive individual notecards. A table in Fellowship Hall displays unique jewelry made by the nimble fingers of some of our creative

members, using unusual stones.

This year we are pleased to have some beautiful hand-sewn quilts in various sizes up to queen and king. Winter will come eventually, and a warm bed covering will be comforting as well as decorative. Quilts are scarcer each year, as their makers grow older and their fingers less agile.

After making a few purchases, you are invited to enjoy the lunch served by men of the church between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Sit down on the patio with your friends and rest a bit while you compare notes on your finds, before you go back for more. While you are on the patio, check out the tent and sales tables there as well as the bargain area.

New this year is the Children's Room, where no adults are allowed except for the elves who will help the children. Donations of gifts that would be suitable for mothers, and also appeal to the shoppers, who must be age 7 or younger. Please bear in mind the limited budgets of these children. Contributions will be gratefully accepted at the church office. Call Kay Rupp (734-3858) or Cynthia Coher (735-9685) for more information. This special shop will be in an otherwise empty nursery on the first floor of the Christian Education Building near the back door that opens on Bronson Avenue.

Back in Fellowship Hall be sure to notice the joke table and the

Thanksgiving table with favors, decorations and linens. We hope you will find that there is indeed something here for everyone.

Here are some brief but important notes:

- **A special thank you** goes to Bob Kay and Ed Jessell for using their skills to provide us with the wood items we need.

- **Please sign up** to help make this a successful all-church affair.

- **Don't forget** that Atlantic Avenue will be closed on Saturday and Sunday.

- **Please hold articles** for the Rummage Sale until the last week of January. We cannot store all the great things that you give us.

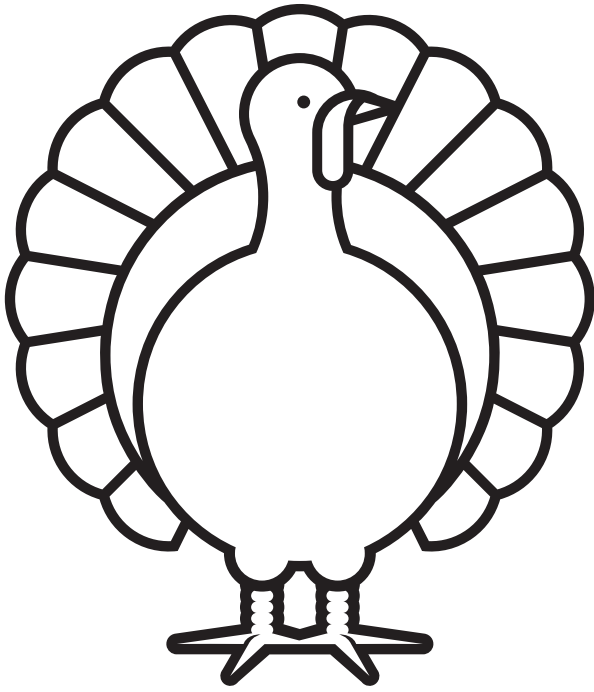
- **Costume jewelry** for the Bazaar may be brought in now. Leave your donations in the church office or give them to a board member or Jewelry Committee workers for checking and pricing.

If you are away the second weekend in November, there is still hope! The Holiday Craft Sale will be open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the **NEW HOLLY HOUSE** on Bronson Avenue. It will run from Saturday, November 17th through Saturday, December 22nd. This gives you a sneak-peek at our new home before its official house warming celebration.

Christmas will really be here soon. Come to the Holly Days Bazaar and you will be ready ahead of time. ❖



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 C.R.O.S. Ministries is making the direct connection of distribution to less fortunate families in Delray Beach.

Pluck a feather from the Thanksgiving Turkey in the Courtyard following the worship service. We have 50 families of 5-6 members who will need the items listed on the turkey feather. We will supply the boxes to maintain uniformity for ease in storage and distribution. ❖

C.R.O.S. Walk Update

Thank you to our members and friends who contributed to and participated in the 18th Annual C.R.O.S. Walk fundraising drive on Sunday, October 14th. Representing our church were 9 walkers who helped C.R.O.S. Ministries with funding to feed hungry people in Delray Beach through The Caring Kitchen and the Community Food Pantry. ❖



Dance the Night Away was a Success

by Siena Del Mastro

"Dancing the night away" wasn't merely a phrase on September 29th when over 80 church members and friends enjoyed a "Dancing with the Stars" potluck dinner dance. Organized by Deacon Scott Del Mastro, the event was a total success and we look forward to another great event.

Scott Del Mastro has always had a mission to bring his flock members and the congregation in general, together. A wonderful part of being a Christian is enjoying the fellowship that it brings, and our church is blessed by how accepting everyone is of each other. Our congregation always goes out of its way to include others and always thinks of creative ways to do it.

The night began with a great variety of food and we could definitely call it a banquet. There was a lot of conversation and everyone had a grand old time chatting with old and new friends.

Two professional dancers came from the Fred Astaire Dance Studio to teach everyone some old school and classic dances. Now being me, I am known among my friends as having two left feet. Let's just put it this way: although I have many

lovely and endearing qualities, I'm not the first person called upon to be someone's dance partner. My brother Mitchell, was the unlucky person stuck with my inability to dance.

We were led through numerous genres of dance; including the fox trot, the tango, the salsa and the waltz. After practicing with a designated partner, you were required to switch partners and practice that specific dance with someone else. After completing each step, I felt increasing hope that I was not going to be such a failure as a dancer in the future.

were all stunned by the fluidity and the grace of their movements.

We owe a large debt of gratitude to Ed and Gail Jessell for bringing enough chicken to feed a small town and for getting a good number of volunteers to make sure the event ran smoothly.

Thank you! ❖



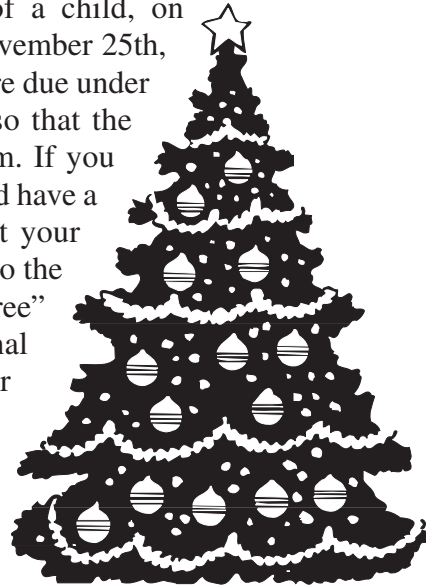
There was a dancing competition and Kent and Happy Kinnear placed first in the competition, Bill and Merrill Beveridge placed second and Scott and Chris Del Mastro placed third. The professional dancers then gave us a free dance performance and we

Deacons' Christmas Tree

Each November, the Deacons prepare for their biggest project of the year: the Deacons' Christmas Tree. The tree will shine brightly in the Narthex beginning on Sunday, November 18th and the hope is that everyone will help with this meaningful and fun project.

This year, the Christmas Tree will benefit six area agencies: The Achievement Center for Children & Families, Adopt-a-Family, AVDA (Aid for Victims of Domestic Abuse), C.R.O.S. Ministries (Christians Reaching Out to Society), the Milagro Center, and Rolling Green Elementary School. Helping local families fulfill their children's Christmas wishes is a great way for our church family to give back to our community.

Please choose an ornament tag from the tree bearing the name, age and wish of a child, on Sunday, November 18th, Sunday, November 25th, or Sunday, December 2nd. All gifts are due under the tree by Sunday, December 9th so that the Deacons can sort and distribute them. If you prefer to give a monetary donation and have a Deacon elf shop for you, please put your check in the offering plate or mail it to the church office, and mark "Deacons' Tree" on the memo line. For additional information, contact Linda Whitaker (865-4126). ❖



Pennies from Heaven

Help First Presbyterian Church support the battle against hunger and poverty by participating in "*Pennies from Heaven*". This is a simple act of thanksgiving for what we have received and a commitment to share with others. Collect 5 cents per family member per meal each day. Then on Sunday, November 25th, bring your "*Pennies from Heaven*" to church and we will collect it during the worship service. Monies collected will be donated on a quarterly basis to local food programs as well as regional and national hunger programs. *We can make a difference!* ❖

Consider the Children

by Rev. Jo Garnett

We are blessed with a number of preschoolers and children at our church and we have witnessed their baptisms. In baptism, we are committing ourselves to their spiritual nurture. So the question is, how do we honor this commitment?

There are several ways. The first and easiest is to acknowledge them with a smile, and perhaps a word of greeting. A second way is to become involved at a personal level by giving an hour of your time on Sunday morning. If you would be interested in helping weekly, monthly, or serving as a substitute, please call the church office and speak with Paula Hare (ext. 23). If we are going to stay true to the commitment we made at their baptism, we need your help.

And Jesus said, "*Let the little children come to Me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.*"

(Mark 10:14)



We Welcome to Our Membership . . .

October 7, 2012

Barbara Henn

Patti Mulloy



Welcome

Youth Slidell Mission Trip

by Carley Meeks

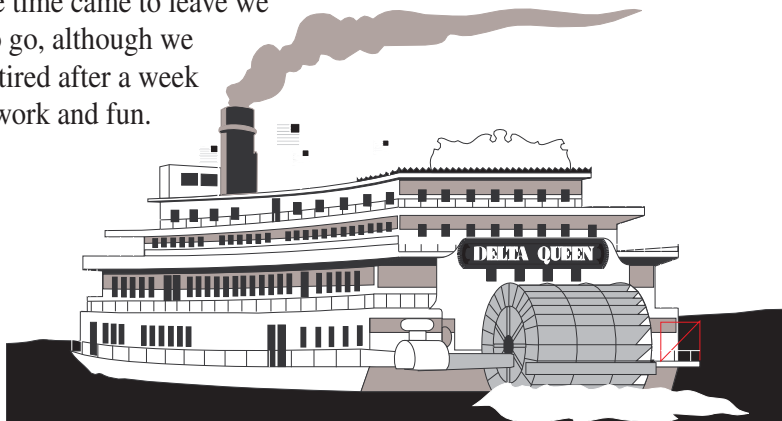
The Slidell mission trip was one of the best mission trips I've ever been on! There were seventeen of us who went this summer and had a lot of fun. We spent one week in Slidell, Louisiana doing mission work for Katrina hurricane victims. We stayed at a church in Slidell with another youth group, who were from Texas.

During the day, our group was split into two sections who went to separate work sites. One group went to work on a house. They painted a whole room and installed flooring. The other group built a wooden fence and helped fix up a bathroom at their work sites.

Each evening we did different things. We built floats out of wheelbarrows and paraded around the church, which was quite a sight! Or sometimes after a long day of work we would get snowballs (snowballs are like snow cones). They were very yummy. Other times we would just relax and play games in the dining area. Every night though, we went to worship and prayed and sang songs. The food was delicious. We ate beignets, red beans and rice, Po' boys, and more!

During the middle of the week, to get a break from all the work, we went into the city of New Orleans. That day was packed full of fun! We went on a river boat tour down the Mississippi river, saw the French quarter, ate Po' boys, and took an historic tour of an old cemetery.

When the time came to leave we didn't want to go, although we were all very tired after a week of satisfying work and fun.



Celebration 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:

– Robert Krestel –
December 24, 2011

– Jeanette Marsted –
September 28, 2012



Remember the Church When

Estate Planning

Our Endowment and Remembrance Funds are two excellent opportunities for your giving consideration, be it your will, stocks, or as a named beneficiary of an insurance policy. This financially wise method of stewardship helps ensure the long-term financial stability of the church and provides a planned means for the church to continue its role in the lives of our members and those to whom we reach out, in our community and beyond. For more information on long-term giving, call the church office (276-6338). ❖

Church Retreat is Coming!

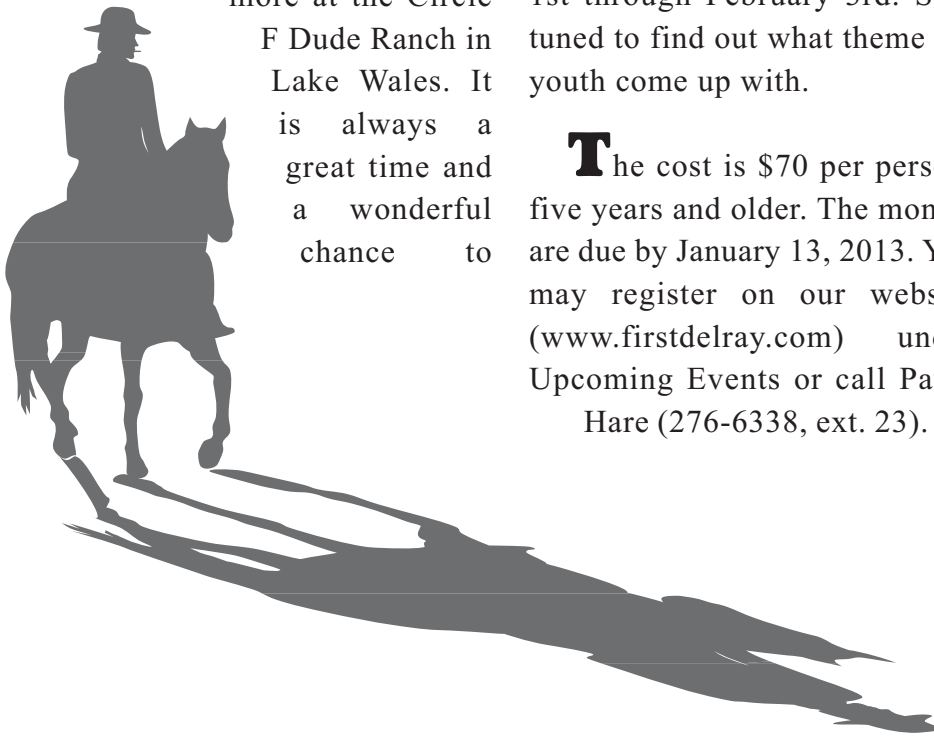
by Chris Del Mastro

Less than three hours from Delray Beach, you will find horseback riding, s'mores, a hayride, campfires, kickball, fellowship, an outdoor worship service, kayaks, and more at the Circle F Dude Ranch in Lake Wales. It is always a great time and a wonderful chance to

spend time with your church family and grow in your faith.

This year, our youth will be leading us for our annual church retreat which will be February 1st through February 3rd. Stay tuned to find out what theme the youth come up with.

The cost is \$70 per person, five years and older. The monies are due by January 13, 2013. You may register on our website (www.firstdelray.com) under Upcoming Events or call Paula Hare (276-6338, ext. 23). ❖



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

by Becky Knapp

Volunteers are needed to assist with the following local mission projects supported by our church:

TURKEY BOXES (for Thanksgiving)

- We need more copy paper boxes with lids.
- October 21st through November 4th after worship to help sign up sponsors and distribute directions.
- November 12th, 13th or 14th (anytime) – for check in and decoration of returned boxes, purchase butter and turkey pans.
- November 15th at 8 a.m. for delivery of the boxes to the Caring Kitchen.



Poinsettia Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trips

by Kathy Smith

This year we have the opportunity to sell pink, white or red poinsettias. Some of you have asked for pink or white over the years, we finally have them! Our poinsettias are locally grown in Delray Beach, florist quality, short, wide and healthy.

On November 4th, 11th & 18th after the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services, the youth will be selling Poinsettias outside Fellowship Hall to help offset the costs of their Mission Trips.

Please pick up your plants on Sunday, November 25th in Fellowship Hall. Contact Kathy Smith at 265-3446 if you have any questions.

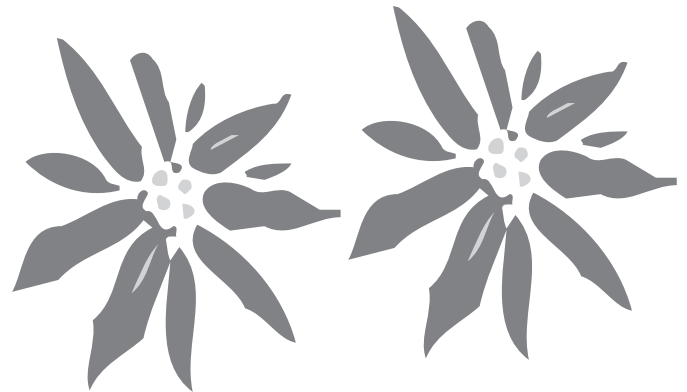
The three different sizes:

6" pot4-5 bloom average.....\$10

8" pot.....8-12 bloom average.....\$20

10" pot.....15 bloom average.....\$30

- The carbon imprint is almost non-existent!
- Go green with our red, white or pink poinsettias. ❖



The Women's Monday Book Group will resume in November. They meet the first Monday of the month at 12:30 p.m. in the Christian Learning Center from November through April.

Everyone is invited to join the discussion and are encouraged to note the dates and titles of next season's selections. For more information, contact Linda Prior at 330-0245.

November 7, 2012

The Paris Wife

By Paula McLain

December 3, 2012

The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

By Jamie Ford

January 7, 2013

The Marriage Plot

By Jeffrey Eugenides

February 4, 2013

The Widow's War

By Sally Gunning

March 4, 2013

Bel Canto

By Ann Patchett

April 1, 2013

A Passage to India

By E.M. Forster and Oliver Stallybrass

STEPHEN MINISTERS:

by David Fellows

It's Here!

The Holiday season is upon us. The rush has started. Our heads are filled with thoughts of Christmas shopping, Christmas card mailings, Holiday travel planning, Thanksgiving preparations (don't forget to pick up your Thanksgiving Dinner Box in Fellowship Hall) and ideas for welcoming the New Year. 'Tis the Season to be Jolly!

This is "make it, or break it" time for many industries: retail stores, grocery stores, all things Christmas, delivery companies, restaurants and the travel industry. Unfortunately it is also peak season for the substance abuse treatment industry. With the abundance of Holiday parties, free-flowing alcohol and the heightened emotions of the season, opportunities abound for addiction to manifest itself. How can we identify possible alcoholism in ourselves or help others to recognize it in themselves?

One way is to utilize the CAGE questionnaire:

The CAGE questionnaire, the name of which is an acronym of its four questions, is a widely used method of screening for alcoholism.

Two "yes" responses indicate that the possibility of alcoholism should be investigated further. The questionnaire asks the following questions:

1. Have you ever felt you needed to **C**ut down on your drinking?
2. Have people **A**nnoyed you by criticizing your drinking?
3. Have you ever felt **G**uilty about drinking?
4. Have you ever felt you needed a drink first thing in the morning (**E**ye-opener) to steady your nerves or to get rid of a hangover?



The CAGE questionnaire, among other methods, has been extensively used and tested for use in identifying alcoholism. CAGE is considered a validated screening technique, with one study determining that CAGE test scores of 2 or higher identified problem drinkers.

By far the most important question in the CAGE questionnaire is the use of a drink as an Eye Opener, so much so that some clinicians use yes to this question alone as a positive to the questionnaire. This is due to the fact that the use of an alcoholic drink as an Eye Opener denotes abuse since the patient is going through withdrawal in the morning, hence the need for a drink as an eye opener.

If you know of someone who might not pass the CAGE test, you may want to share it with them - if they are receptive to your sharing it. Do not force this on anyone! If you encounter anyone during this Holiday Season who recognizes that her/she may have a problem with alcohol (maybe even yourself), please refer him to our Stephen Ministry program. In strict confidence, we can assist him and his family in getting the help they need.

*It may be their best
Christmas gift ever.*



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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.

Church School

Adult Church School 10 a.m.

Education Hour Sunday School 10 a.m.

Worship Hour Sunday School 11 a.m.

Youth Fellowship 5 p.m.



This is our ministry of connecting people with Jesus Christ and the church. Jesus' priority for the church is to share the Christian faith in such a way that people place their trust in Jesus and participate with Jesus in His ongoing work through the local church.



We were never intended to remain the same. Through this ministry, we engage people in intentional processes for growing in the character of Jesus.



Implanted deep within the nature of men and women is the hunger to serve others. Through this ministry, we engage people in a process that helps them discover, develop and deploy their God given gifts for service to Jesus in the local church and community.



One of the distinctive teachings of the Christian faith is that we are called to live in community. In community, we support, encourage, hold accountable and care for one another so that no one has to make the journey of life alone.