

# An Exciting Time!

by Rev. Aaron Janklow, Associate Pastor



It is great to be part of the team here at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach! From my first visit here, I was impressed with the kindness of the people I met, and I was equally impressed with the dedication and love so many of you have for this church. I am excited to be a part of this, and I look forward to serving in ministry with you.

I'm involved with many different aspects of the ministry here at First Presbyterian, but one area that I want to highlight this month regards our younger people.

Our goal is to help our youth (everyone in the church for that matter) know Christ more, and any way that we can do this we want to do. Now, in pursuing this goal, we have developed a wide array of activities and events that we hope you will take part in. They include Sunday School (see below), Sunday Night Fellowship, Beach Events, Lock-Ins, Bible Studies, Mission events, and more to come. We will make these events as fun as possible, but more importantly they will give us opportunities to get to know one another and get to know Christ in the process. A youth calendar with exact dates and times for these events will soon be available and when it is, we'll be sure to let you know. In the meantime though, I really look forward to meeting you, so please continue to introduce yourself to me or email me at aaronjanklow@covad.net.

Although our youth calendar will soon be distributed, I do want to share this breakdown of Christian Education Events that are offered on Sunday Mornings this fall.

With our 10 a.m. Worship Service continuing until November 1st (when we then switch to two Worship services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.), our Fall Christian Education Programming will be as follows:

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**10 a.m. – Worship** – all invited, with children leaving for their respective programs following the Children's Time.

**Bible Bunch** (Preschool through Kindergarten)

**Sunday School** (1st – 5th grade)

**11 a.m. – Education Hour**

**Church School** (Preschool through Kindergarten)

**Church School** (1st through 5th grades)

**Middle School Class** (All middle school students meet in the Youth House.)

**Friends and Fellowship** (Young Adults and Families meet in the Parlor.)

**\*Sunday Forum** (Adults meet in the Christian Learning Center.)

\*The Sunday Forum begins in October and we will be sure to let you know so you can be a part of this great learning opportunity. ❖

# Children's Church School

Begins September 13th at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

by Alice Barrett

During the **Worship Hour at 10 a.m.**, the class of Grades 1st through 5th meets upstairs in the Christian Education Building and will use PCUSA's "We Believe" curriculum. Bible Bunch children also meet at this hour. They are downstairs in the CE Building and follow \*lectionary-based learning activities. Both groups leave the worship service for their respective rooms after the Children's

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# Reflections...

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

## "A Beautiful Day at the Ballpark"

There it was, high above the famous centerfield scoreboard in Wrigley Field. It was flying proudly in the gentle breeze as a young woman beautifully sang the "Star Spangled Banner". As I gazed at that flag, I thought about



all of the courageous men and women who serve our nation. By doing so, they allow people, like those of us gathered in the ballpark that summer day, to enjoy the freedom to do whatever we choose to do with our daily lives.

On the field were athletic young men as well as men who were not so young, whose job it was to make a living by doing what they always dreamed about doing. I wondered to myself, did they fully appreciate the sacrificial cost that the men and women in our military were paying so that they could play this game? Did those of us who were watching from the stands appreciate the sacrifices that made it possible for us to enjoy the game?

A day or two earlier, I heard Mike Greenberg of ESPN's "Mike and Mike in the Morning" mention how he didn't want to be reminded that "football was only a game". Admittedly, he understood that this was true but, like so many of us, he just wished that this would not be the case. His cocoon of the world, as he would like it to be, was shattered by such a concept. Unfortunately for sports fans, any sporting event really is only a game! Like Mike Greenberg, most

of us would prefer to think that this is not the case. Maybe this is because the truth about life often is too painful to accept and too difficult to handle. Like so many people, we may find ourselves escaping to the Sanctuary of the modern-day religion of sports.

In real life, things do not always go our way. Our well-intentioned plans can easily be shredded. Our hopes may be shattered before they even begin to take shape. When this happens, many people look to God for help. Yet many find the way to God difficult to traverse because they have neglected to establish any kind of personal relationship with God beforehand. While organized religion often can be of significant help, other times we simply must rely upon our personal faith to get us through the day.

The realization that we need God's help can be quite a wake-up call to believers and non-believers alike. When was the last time that we spoke with God? Today? Yesterday? So long ago that we forgot when it was?

Back at Wrigley Field, the Cubbies lost the game to the south-side White Sox. But I still enjoyed watching the game with my family. It was a beautiful day at the ballpark. Over time, even I have learned that it really is just "only a game". Darn it, I still wish the Cubbies would have won! ❖

## Church Staff

Theodore A. Bush, Ph.D.  
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*Parish Associate*

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Nancy Fine  
*Office Manager*

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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.**

# Philippines Feeding Program

## Update and Thank You!

by Jeane Forrest

In June 2008, Amber and I went to the Philippines. While there, we visited Bata High School, the school I graduated from. We met the principal, Mrs. Miravalles, who was my math teacher in Junior High. We talked about what the needs of the school, of which there were many. But the one that stood out the most was that there were so many undernourished kids from the poorest of the poor families attending school hungry.

After we returned home, I shared our experience with Dr. Bush and the members of the Mission Outreach Committee. It was decided to fund the feeding program at the school. With your support, we were able to feed 181 undernourished children twice a week for \$25 per feeding. That is only 13¢ per child.

The following is a thank you letter that we received from the High School:

Republic of the Philippines, Department of Education  
Region VI – Western Visayas, Division of Bacolod City  
Bata National High School  
Purok Tunay, Barangay Bata, Bacolod City

July 21, 2009

Dear Dr. Theodore A. Bush, to the Mission Committee and to all the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach,

Greetings from the entire Faculty, Staff and Students of Bata National High School (BNHS) and the Members of the Congregation for all the financial assistance extended to us which has amounted to a total of \$1,500. This has started the Feeding Program, one of the most important programs, if not the most important, of the school.

Such a program benefited 181 students as we do the feeding twice a week from the period of November 2008 to the second week of March 2009. The recent nutritional status of the school has shown great improvement on the health concerns of the students.

You are all, indeed, God-sent and an answered prayer to this particular problem area of the school. You see, BNHS is one school largely populated by poor students below and within the poverty line. Most of them come to school without eating breakfast and, if indeed, they are, still with food insufficient of the nutritional requirement of the body. The feeding program helps alleviate this problem.

Thank you so much to all the men and women behind this kindness. We are greatly indebted to all of you much the more with your plan to continue the program you have greatly stabilized last year.

To God be the glory!  
Very truly yours,

Teresita A. Miravalles  
Principal III ❖



# "Children's Church School"

Continued from Page 1

Time. As always, children are welcome to stay with their parents in the Sanctuary if they prefer.

During the **Education Hour at 11 a.m.**, there are two classes for children upstairs in the Christian Education Building. The class for Grades 1st through 5th meets in Room 203 and learns from the lectionary-based curriculum, "Living the Good News." Children Ages 3 through Kindergarten meet in Room 202-204 and use PCUSA's "We Believe" curriculum.

Children may attend church school at either hour or both. Lessons are not duplicated, as they are from "We Believe" during the Worship Hour at 10

a.m. and "Living the Good News" during the Education Hour at 11 a.m.

Middle School students meet in the Youth House during the Education Hour at 11 a.m. All our teachers are looking forward to seeing everyone again in church school. Please come!

\*What is "lectionary-based" learning? Stories and activities are based on the scripture read during the worship service. For instance, if the gospel reading is Mark 7:24-37, the lesson is about Jesus healing a man who cannot hear and its focus is on the healing touch of Jesus. ❖



## Montreat Youth Conference

*by Miles Knapp*

The Montreat Youth Conference was a lot of fun. We started off in the middle of a storm and had no power in the airport for about 10 minutes, a great way to start the trip!

On Sunday morning before registration, we went white water rafting on the French Broad River; it was so much fun. Summers in Montreat are memorable.

The Conference is a week-long event where 1,100+ high school-aged teens gather to follow Christ and to explore their faith further. Our daily routine consisted of waking up at 8 to eat breakfast and leaving at 8:50 for a 9 a.m. morning worship service. After worship, we broke up into small groups, which are totally random groups of kids that share topics and ideas. Since everybody is very nice and caring, it's very easy to trust everyone and know everything is confidential within the small group. After small groups end at noon, we go back for lunch and return to small groups at 2 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., we have recreation; the big sport that all teens play is Ultimate Frisbee. After recreation, we return for dinner at 5 p.m. and evening worship at 7 p.m.

This conference helps us learn about God and become closer to Him through fun and new ways of worshipping. We do energizers, basically dance, and sing to songs at the morning service to help us wake up.

Montreat is definitely something you have to experience to understand the meaning you get out of it and how you can have fun learning about Jesus. To all youth, this is seriously the most fun you can have and learn about our faith at the same time. Everybody counts down until the day we get to go to Montreat.

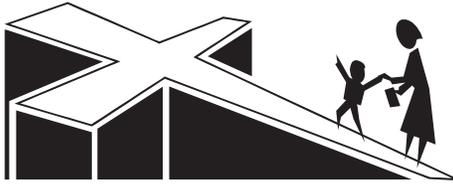
Thank you to the congregation for making this worthwhile event possible. Special thanks to our adult chaperones, Ed and Gail Jessell, who shared the experience of Montreat with us. ❖



# 15th Anniversary C.R.O.S. WALK

*(Christians Reaching Out to Society)*

by *Becky Knapp*



Please join 300+ walkers on Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach for a 3.1 mile/5K intra-

coastal walk. This is great for families and fellowship. Wagons and strollers are welcome. Walk, run, or jog in the main event on Sunday, October 11th at 3 p.m. (transportation can be available) or walk on your own if you cannot make the October 11th date. (Beach & Mall walking count!)

This is the sole C.R.O.S. fundraising drive to feed hungry people in Delray Beach through The Caring Kitchen and the Community Food Pantry. Each walker is asked to raise \$80 in pledges, which will provide 60 meals at the Caring Kitchen or 682 sandwiches for the After School Snack Program. It also will provide food for one person for 62 days from the Community Food Pantry. In commemoration of the C.R.O.S. WALK 15th anniversary, organizers suggest a donation or pledge to a walker in the amount of \$15, although all

donations are appreciated. Corporate sponsorships offered at levels ranging from \$250-\$2500, please contact Becky



Knapp to obtain a sponsorship form: Deadline is Sept 25th. Sponsors are announced and recognized on a banner at the Walk, and listed in C.R.O.S.' newsletter, mailed to over 6,300 homes and businesses.

Last year our congregation had 30 walkers participate and raised \$3,927. Let's do it again this year and help make a difference. Stop by Fellowship Hall after the worship service on September 13th, 20th or 27th and sign up to walk or make your donation.

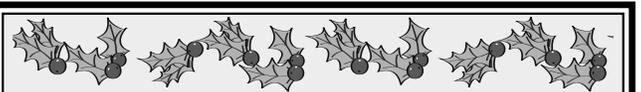
The C.R.O.S. Walk meeting location: Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 211 Trinity Place, West Palm Beach. (Exit Okeechobee

East, to Chase, turn left, North; Park in the church parking lot or nearby). The walk begins at 3 p.m., rain or shine. If you need transportation, please contact Becky or Tim Knapp at (498-8995) or [bjknapp@bellsouth.net](mailto:bjknapp@bellsouth.net). ❖



## Blessing of Pets

SAVE THE DATE  
Sunday  
October 25th  
4 p.m.  
Courtyard



## Church Improvement CHECK YOUR DATES:

November 13th and 14th are the **Holly Days Bazaar** days this year.

Workers are wanted Tuesdays and Thursdays starting **September 8th**. Please come, bringing your extra costume jewelry for the workers to check and price early for the bazaar. ❖

# Spirit to Action

by Linda Prior

The Monday Morning Women's Bible Study is a source of spiritual and intellectual growth and friendship for about 25 women who come and go during the year. During the summer, eight to ten women continue to get together to study, discuss, and share. We treasure the coffee time to catch up with the activities of the week before the study begins.

The current video series, "Faith in Action", features roundtable discussions among leading scholars and authors about biblical, theological and ethical issues of the Christian tradition. The half hour programs feature scholars that have traditional points of view, like Craig Evans, and progressive views, like Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Some topics are quite controversial:

- Why do millions of people take the Bible seriously with opinions that often divide the faithful?
- Are there different ways to interpret Jesus' resurrection and the miracles Jesus performed?



All topics lead us to lively debates. What does the discussion mean to us today? How can we put faith into action?

We have put faith into action by adopting a mission project, Family Promise, ([www.familypromisespbc.org](http://www.familypromisespbc.org)). Family Promise believes that every child deserves a home. Through the support of an interfaith group of congregations, families have temporary shelter and services so that they can achieve lasting independence. Presently, there are four families under the care of Family Promise. One mother, who has a five-year-old daughter, recently graduated from Family Promise. She has a full-time job at a Day Care Center and now has housing. She is getting her certificate from Palm Beach Community College in child care. Another mother with a five-year old daughter has a background in business law. She is job ready and will be independent as soon as she is employed and finds housing.



Twenty-two Bible Study members and friends of the Bible Study are personally involved. Some people staff the day center at 840 George Bush Blvd. where they may answer the phone or play with the children. Others prepare meals, mentor the guests, provide love, support, prayers, and funding. This mission opportunity is hands on. I feel that participation in Family Promise helps us to be one with Christ's mission.

We have a well-rounded group that has worked hard sifting through new ideas, stirring the pot without necessarily getting answers, but getting more comfortable with a relationship with

God. Each person is unique in her spiritual journey. The common thread is inclusiveness and sharing joys and sorrows.

The Monday Morning Bible Study has been a source of spiritual and intellectual growth and friendships. It has been enlightening to have women join from other faith congregations. At the end of our morning studies, the big question is, "Where do we go for lunch?"

For more information, call Linda Prior at 330-0245. ❖



## Celebrations of Eternal Life...

**Our Deepest Sympathy** as a congregation is extended to the family of the following member upon the death of their loved one:

John Hunter - July 23, 2009❖

# Don't Miss Out on a New Season

## Children's, Youth, and Handbells Choirs!



by Jim Poch,  
Associate Director of Music

**Children's Choir** for age four through third grade will meet Thursdays from 4:30 to 5, starting October 1st. We will learn songs for morning worship and be the core of the Christmas Pageant and Palm Sunday celebration.

**Carillon Ringers** (handbells for grade four through high school) will meet Sundays from 4



to 4:30, starting October 4th. We will ring in worship about every six weeks.

### Youth Singers

for grade four and older will meet Sundays from 4:30 to 5 (right before Middle School Youth Fellowship!) starting October 4th. We are looking for young people with particular interest in singing and willingness to commit to faithful attendance and participation.

### Westminster Ringers

(handbells for high school youth and adults) will continue to meet Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:20. See next month's Spire for the exact date rehearsals will begin.



Take advantage of these opportunities for fun, fellowship, and good music. If you have any questions please phone Jim Poch (276-6338, ext. 24). ❖

## World Communion Invitation

**October 4th**  
**10 a.m.**

*From east and west, from north and south, people will come and take their places at the banquet in the Kingdom of God. Yes, and some who are now last will be first, and some who are first will be last." (Luke 13:29-30).*

We come to Christ's Table aware of our human frailty and our sin. Our world has been shattered by selfish prejudice and foolish pride. We also come knowing that God's healing love can restore wholeness and welcome us home.

At Christ's Table, we are made one with Christ and one with each other. We also are united with the Church in every time and place. The unity of the Lord's Table is a sign of the unity that God wills for all of creation. From Christ's Table, we can go out with joy as witnesses of God's love to work for the healing and the reconciliation of God's world.

Join Christians around the world at the great celebration. Take your place at the Lord's Table on Sunday, October 4th, 10 a.m. and know the feeling of what it is like to be one with Christians everywhere. ❖



*The Community Church by the Sea*

33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, Florida 33483

## Sunday Morning Worship Service 10 a.m.

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

### Starting September 13th:

Adult Church School 11 a.m.

Children's Sunday School 10 a.m.

Children's Church 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](http://www.firstdelray.com). If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter, please email Nancy Fine at [nancyfine@covad.net](mailto:nancyfine@covad.net).



## Top Ten Reasons Why it is GREAT to be a Deacon

*by Joan Tanner and Kim Winker*

1. You get to really know the wonderful people in our church.
2. With the help of the congregation, you get to make a difference in many children's Christmases through the Deacons' Christmas Tree.
3. Working with all the other Deacons is a blessing, as they are truly a group of caring, service-inspired people.
4. The Deacons' Scholarship Fund helps young people in our church.
5. You get to hear Don's organ music at the end of the service.
6. Shut-in visits give more back to you than you give.
7. Seeing hundreds of friendly, smiling faces each Sunday.
8. Meet Your Deacon Sunday has the best reception and best food, hands down.
9. You always know what to wear.
10. You're never late, as you get to church before the rooster crows. ❖

## Be transformed

Soon it will be Labor Day weekend — a time to rest from our labors. But this is also an opportunity to reflect on our daily work and discern whether our effort is thankless and uninteresting or something that gives us deep and lasting satisfaction. God intends for our work to be much more than a job, much more than a daily grind. It should be, instead, a vocation — which means, quite literally, a "calling."

In Romans 12:2, Paul challenges us with the words: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect."

The apostle's advice, then, is to be transformed by the renewing of your minds. Paul says be transformed by discovering what the Lord God is calling you to do. ❖