

## Vacation Bible School

by Cheryl Ramich

For the week of June 8th through June 12th, the halls of First Presbyterian were filled with children's laughter and their joy of learning. This year's theme used "Under Construction: A Habitat for Humanity Bible School" to learn about how we build communities; both physical and spiritual. The theme centered on how Habitat for Humanity works to show our Christian faith by building decent homes all over the world for needy families. The focus on building homes to make a community parallels the Bible's teachings that we should build a community of faith, and the lessons throughout the week were both rich and understandable to the children. Fun, too!



so much about their paralyzed friend that they carried him through a massive crowd, hoisted him up to the roof of the house where Jesus was preaching, and lowered him down through the roof to Jesus to be healed. The campers, organized into age-specific "building

Habitat partner families. Each day began with the acting out of a Biblical story by our teen helpers as we learned about Sharing, Caring, Learning, Worshiping, and Celebrating. For example, we learned about four friends who cared so much about their paralyzed friend that they carried him through a massive crowd, hoisted him up to the roof of the house where Jesus was preaching, and lowered him down through the roof to Jesus to be healed. The campers, organized into age-specific "building crews" then rotated through classes focusing on arts & crafts, music, games (and yummy refreshments!), and stories. Each class worked to help the campers understand the Bible's daily story in a hands-on, realistic way. Fun was had by all as they sanded, painted, and assembled hat racks, key racks and toy building blocks for Habitat families. The kids'

joy of learning was obvious as Larry Fitzpatrick demonstrated how to use various carpentry tools. In story time, the campers learned a bit more each day about a girl whose family helped build houses with their church and the girl's classmate whose family became recipients. The discussions and questions from the children showed that they really understood the concept of Christian mission work and how we can each make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

We had a great turnout of campers, with over 30 children participating in the fun each day. We also

*Continued on Page 4*

### INSIDE . . .

**Reflections** . . . . . Page 2

*Dr. Bush*

**Parents' Morning Out** . . . . Page 3

*Sandy Polane*

**Youth Mystery Dinner** . . . . Page 5

*Siena Del Mastro*

construction of Habitat homes, they did discover the joy of serving by creating crafts that are being given to

# Reflections...

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

## "This Summer"

For some people, summer holds memories of long ago childhoods where families retreated to mountains, lakes and sea shores, in search of a retreat from the normal routine of life. Things took on a much more casual atmosphere then, long before casual was a word used to define anything that did not bear the characteristics of traditionalism.

Like a Norman Rockwell portrait of a young child swinging from a tree branch, headed straight for a splash in a country pond, people today head off in search of a place to escape a world that we hardly know how to live without.

Once families camped in the woods where there were no phone lines or television. Tents or campers sprouted up for the average family (whatever "average" meant either then or now). Today, fully-equipped RVs dot the roadways, each equipped to house an army of tenants for what must feel like an eternity. At only a few miles per gallon, some of these all-encompassing vehicles may never leave people's circular driveways. Other people simply don't know how to function without a hotel or resort.

Can you imagine any of us living today in an environment that did not include a cell phone? My goodness, how did people ever survive any summer expeditions into the unknown wilderness or well-known countryside without a cell phone in hand? We might have to hold on to each other's



hand to keep from losing contact with one another. For some families, the mere thought of such an endeavor might prompt people to stay home.

Yes, the times certainly have changed.

In many ways, we must

admit that some things definitely have improved our lives tremendously. Yet, in other ways, maybe we have stepped back into time because we have lost our capability to communicate well with one another.

There is a danger point when this happens because, among other things, we also run the risk of losing contact with God. In the busy world in which we live, have we stepped away from maintaining contact with the Holiest of the holies? Have we managed, somehow, to lose whatever relationship we might have had with God?

This summer, as we try to escape the perplexing problems of our everyday lives, maybe we can find a way to restore our personal relationship with God. Perhaps we can spend less time seeking to avoid the spiritual side of our personalities and, instead, pursue elevating our souls to new heights with the Creator of all that was and is and ever will be?

Who knows, maybe somewhere out there in the wilderness of both nature and life, we can find the comforting solace and peace for which our souls deeply long. This summer, may you find a way and a place where you can renew your soul and your life with God. ❖

## 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  
*Head Custodian*

Rita Avery  
*Custodian*

### First Presbyterian Church

33 Gleason Street

Delray Beach, FL 33483

phone: 561-276-6338

fax: 561-272-8505

e-mail: [administrator@firstdelray.com](mailto:administrator@firstdelray.com)

web page: [www.firstdelray.com](http://www.firstdelray.com)

## The Spire

EDITOR:

Tim Knapp

LAYOUT:

Laura Martinez

PROOFREADER:

Barbara Vanderkay

SPECIAL THANKS:

*Printers Choice*



# “Parents’ Morning Out – The Year in Review”

*by Sandy Polane*

The Parents’ Morning Out (PMO) program is a blessing to all who are a part of it. That includes: (1) the parents, (2) the children, (3) the teachers, and (4) the church. The parents enjoy a brief respite from the demands of toddler care, to run errands, take care of business or just relax. The children play and experience God’s love in a happy, safe and caring environment with stories, music, painting, snacks, playground and more! The teachers are giving and receiving love



from the precious children. It is truly a labor of love for us. This successful program is well respected in the community; consequently, it is one more example of our church reaching out to serve others throughout the Delray Beach area.

This was a successful year for PMO on many levels. (1) By November 2008, we had a waiting list for students. Enrollment remained at maximum levels throughout the year. (2) Financially, PMO operated in the black for the entire year. Being financially self-sufficient is very important. In these financially challenging times, I am happy to report that our church incurred no extra expenses to sup-



port PMO this year. (3) Parent satisfaction with the PMO program was 100% positive. Throughout the year, parents expressed their gratitude and appreciation. I could enthusiastically elaborate on this topic with numerous examples! (4) Children in a loving, Christian environment are developing confidence as they explore their world (without the safe reassurance of Mom and Dad’s presence). As care givers in the Nursery, we are “planting seeds” as described in Mark 4: 26-32. Each day while seated at snack time, the children say “table grace”, sing “Thank You, God, for Our Families” and the “Go Now in Peace” song. They are blessed individually, by name, each day.

When I began helping at PMO, Rev. Jo Garnett introduced me to a Christian Education curriculum for toddlers, which was implemented immediately. It is a blessing to witness how receptive young children are to the love and word of God. I’ve been privileged to be a part of PMO for the past three years. Alice Barrett and Esmeralda Pascucci are invaluable, excellent, caring teachers in this program; Merrill Beverage, an experienced pre-



school teacher, is currently our substitute teacher. PMO begins the new school year on Monday, August 31, 2009. We are enthusiastically looking forward to the upcoming year! ❖

When I began helping at PMO, Rev. Jo Garnett introduced me to a Christian Education curriculum for toddlers, which was implemented immediately. It is a blessing to witness how receptive young children are to the love and word of God. I’ve been privileged to be a part of PMO for the past three years. Alice Barrett and Esmeralda Pascucci are invaluable, excellent, caring teachers in this program; Merrill Beverage, an experienced pre-



# "Vacation Bible School"

Continued from Page 1



had a super turnout of volunteers from the church and the community, and want to thank the following folks for their hard work and love for our children: Dorinda Bagwell, Kendall Bagwell, Kennedy Bagwell, Alice Barrett, Jennifer Buce, Donna Claus, Kim Dykstra, Taylor Dykstra, Hanna Feran, Larry Fitzpatrick, Amber Forrest, Amanda Gaudree, Olivia Gaudree, Denise Gomez, Craig Hammett, Chris Heilakka, Mark Hegedus, Nicole Hegedus, Ed Jessell, Gail Jessell, John Killian, Neil Killian, Jim Poch, Carly Seymour, Sandra Shine, Kathy Smith, Kellen Smith, Kate Tanner and Sally Theobald. During the coming year, we look forward to building on the lessons we learned at VBS about Sharing, Caring, Learning, Worshiping, and Celebrating. We hope you'll join us! ❖



# Youth “Mystery Dinner”



by *Siena Del Mastro*

Constant chatter and laughter bounced off the walls of Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 17th at the Youth Group’s Mystery Dinner.

The meals were made beforehand and were then served to the guests. There was a little secret though. On the menus where the food was listed, there were disguised items. For example



“Echinacea’s Cousin” would be chicken noodle soup because they are both used for healing people that are sick. However,



when the guests looked at the menu, they had no idea what they had just ordered. The utensils were also disguised. Some people ended up eating soup with a knife!

We were all rushing around trying to serve our guests a five course meal, and the guests ended up full and satisfied. Without the help of Happy Foster Kinnear, the youth would not have been able to produce such a fabulous meal for our parents and distinguished guests. She spent a lot of her time the day before the Mystery Dinner preparing the food for our guests. Thank you, Happy!

In general, I think that the Mystery Dinner was really a success and I hope that all who attended felt the same way! ❖



# Pictorial Directory Update



Over a five week period in January and February, Reece Galyon worked diligently before, between and after the worship services to photograph the smiling faces of our members. Once taken, the pictures were

provided to Nancy Fine in the church office to be inputted into our membership database. Thus, they became a valuable asset to the church staff.

During June, Nancy compiled the information for the directory. Not an easy task as all the information needed to be formatted and verified.

Now that the information is assembled, the pictures and membership information have been provided to the printer to be arranged and printed. It is expected that it will take several weeks to layout and print the

directory. Once completed, the books will be returned to the office staff to be stuffed in envelopes and labeled for distribution.

It is anticipated that the directories will be available for pick-up in the back of the Narthex in the coming weeks. Please help us to control costs by checking the weekly bulletin for updates and stopping by and picking up your copy upon their arrival. For those who are snowbirds, we will hold your directory until your return. ❖





# “Deacons’ Corner”

by *Kim Winker*

## DEACON DUOS

When Jim and Linda Whitaker moved to South Florida six years ago from Cincinnati, Ohio, they knew few people. But, that all changed when they began coming to our church. As members for the last two years, the Whitakers realized after their first visit to First Presbyterian that this was where they wanted to worship. “We were immediately impressed with the sermon, the music and the friendly congregation,” Linda says.



Jim is a former Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper and a retiree from Ford Motor Co. and Linda is a retired

teacher. Since they’ve been church members, they have found themselves involved with many activities in the life of our congregation. Besides being a new Deacon, Jim just completed his Stephen Ministry training and serves on the Emergency Preparedness/Medical Safety Committee for the Board of Deacons while Linda will be very busy this holiday season with the Deacons’ Christmas Tree Committee.

This married couple of 41 years is honored to serve as Deacons because as Linda explains, “Being Deacons is a way of showing appreciation for the many blessings we have received in our lives. In addition, it is a rewarding way to have contact with other members of the congregation.”

The Whitakers love to travel, especially to visit their family in Ohio and Arizona. They have three daughters and sons-in-law and five grandchildren. Jim is part of the Elks, American Legion, VFW and Linda is an Elkette.

Like the Whitakers, we Winkers are a brand new Deacon couple who are able to serve together for the first time this year.

Grant and I stumbled upon First Presbyterian while we were looking for reception locations for our wedding two summers ago. One evening after scoping out Crane’s Beach House, we couldn’t help but notice the magnificent church lighting up the night sky before us. I said to Grant, “Wouldn’t it be great if this was a Presbyterian church!” Sure enough it was! We became members in early 2008 and have been active in church activities from the start.

# One Worship Service at 10 a.m.

During the summer months, we will hold only **one** worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday

Grant is a native Floridian who used to work as an engineer for a large aerospace company in California. Now Grant enjoys being the only employee in his company where he develops web sites that both interest him and help pay the bills.



Originally from New York, I moved to the Sunshine State in 2000. Presently, I am departing from my career in public relations to pursue a more family-friendly career path. I look forward to having the time to volunteer more at the church.

Grant and I were grateful and honored to be asked to serve as Deacons for our church, especially because we could do it together. As a young family starting out, we know that building our faith is one of the fundamental building blocks of forming a strong family. We love acting as a team and serving as Deacons together is a special way to enrich our faith and get to know our congregation.

I am sure I speak for the Whitakers too, when I say we are glad the church made the decision to allow couples to serve together. What a blessing! ❖

# 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:

- Pauline Cullen – January 6, 2007
- Charles Grant – April 25, 2009
- Frances Allen – May 1, 2009
- Robert Hohwieler – May 4, 2009
- Donald Jones – June 16, 2009 ❖

# What is a Deacon?

*by Richard Schaublin*

I'm a new Deacon and before joining this wonderful team, I had that same question. Webster's dictionary says, "A Deacon is a subordinate officer in a Christian church. A layman elected to serve." Dr. Bush said, "Although clearly biblical in nature, the terminology seemed rather archaic. Over the years, I have come to appreciate the concept of Deacons as Shepherds caring for their flocks. It is the caring nature of each Deacon who takes his or her responsibility seriously that nurtures the specific group of individuals, couples and families for whom he is responsible. This loving, compassionate quality is what sets Deacons apart and makes them special in the life of our congregation."

Dacons are selected by a nominating committee at an annual meeting of church members. Nominations can come from the floor during the meeting with prior consent of the nominee. After being elected, you learn the details of what being a Deacon in this church really means. You are taught the duties of an usher so you can take your turn at this pleasurable task.

Want to meet once a month with some wonderful people and plan scholarships for high school seniors or work on the Deacons' Christmas Tree gift program for needy children? If so, you may be Deacon material! Each Deacon is assigned a small group of congregation members and families to act as a liaison between this group, their "flock", and the church. We try to do more than just send you an Easter or Christmas card. Dacons would love to get to know their flocks without being invasive in your life. I didn't know what I was getting into several months ago, but now I know what a Deacon is and wouldn't change this opportunity for anything in the world. Get to know your Deacon. It's easy...just say hello. They are really special people. ❖

## Five steps to a friendlier church



1. Speak to the other person first. Don't wait for him or her to take the initiative.
2. If there is someone you don't know, introduce yourself to him or her.
3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Invite newcomers to a worship service or to a church event and introduce them to other members.
5. Encourage people to participate in those church activities that interest them. ❖

## Church Improvement

*by Barbara Vanderkay*

Summerime! When is it hot enough for you? Come to our nicely air conditioned Holly House at 39 Gleason Street and join the congenial group of Presbyterian ladies and their friends who gather at 9:30 on

Tuesdays and Thursdays to work on articles for our November Holly Days Bazaar. Talent not needed, but welcome. As usual, we have some new and different items, as well as the regular things we seem to sell out of every year. Craft activities can be undertaken at any age and by those with no previous experience. Try it out, there is always an expert on hand to help you get started.

The Holly House workers are the friendliest group you could hope for. They accomplish a lot, but the camaraderie makes the work almost secondary.

Although the workshops officially end at 11:30 a.m., there are usually quite a few people who stay for lunch (bring your own, or send out for something different.) Dessert and beverages provided.

Now it's mango time again. Please bring us ripe mangos when you can; our mango jam and chutney are on the summer schedule of things to do, as well as making watermelon pickles, and Helen Antal's zucchini relish. We will take orders them so give Regie Moorcroft a call at 495-5376 to reserve yours. These are great hostess gifts and also add a fillip to ordinary home meals.

Don't forget to bring us your unwanted costume jewelry. The jewelry specialists like to have time to look things over, repair or clean as needed, and price ahead of time. November will come sooner than we anticipate.

Just to remind you, all proceeds are earmarked for church improvement, special things not in the regular budget, such as the new handrails on the steps in the Courtyard and the fans outside Fellowship Hall where we gather for refreshments after Sunday services. The fruits of our labors are gratifyingly visible and tangible. ❖

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH OF DELRAY BEACH

NonProfit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
West Palm Beach, FL  
Permit #3064

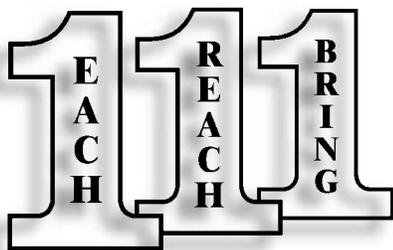
*The Community Church by the Sea*

33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, Florida 33483

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).

## Sunday Morning Worship Service 10 a.m.

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



## Montreat Youth Trip

*by Amber Forrest*

For the past two years, the youth of the First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach attended the Montreat Youth Conference up in North Carolina. It is something that I know all of us in the youth group excitedly anticipate from year to year. This summer in Montreat, I know, holds a special place in our hearts because it will be the last time some of us will be attending.

Montreat is not just your typical Christian camp. It is a place where young Presbyterians from all over the country can get together, make new friends, and rejoice in the love of the Lord – in a fun way, of course. Through great music, fun small groups, and inspiring sermons, teens with various interests, talents, and abilities are brought together under one common belief, one faith.

We have you, the congregation, to thank for allowing us to experience this wonderful opportunity. I can say on behalf of all the youth that we truly appreciate your continued love and support. We are excited to become better integrated into the Christian Community and to help to spread the love of God. ❖

## “Twenty-five Years!”

### *The Theodore Bush 25th Anniversary Committee*

On Sunday, November 8th, 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. ❖