



Deacons' Corner

First Year Blessings: My College Experience

by Amber Forrest



It's amazing what can happen in just the span of a year. Last summer, I was graciously awarded the Deacons' Scholarship (for which I am still so grateful), and in the blink of an eye I

have completed my first year at the University of Florida!

I have recently returned back home to Delray Beach, and needless to say, I am already looking forward to beginning my sophomore year.

Though it did take a while for me to adapt to the 50,000 students and 2,000-acre campus that comprise UF, my time in Gainesville has been filled with many great, new experiences. Just like any college freshman, I have made new friends, been taught by my fair share of kooky college professors, and even pulled a few "all-nighter" study sessions. Additionally, with the help of an old high school friend, I was able to form an alternative rock band with some fellow UF music-lovers. We even got to play at a couple of popular venues in downtown Gainesville!

One thing that I particularly enjoyed this year was working at the Florida Museum of Natural History, located right on campus. I was introduced to the museum back in October of last year by a friend who suggested I visit the Butterfly Rainforest exhibit. I fell in love immediately, and soon afterwards I started volunteering as an exhibit docent once



a week. Lucky for me, the day that I volunteer is the same day that four of the sweetest, most helpful museum veterans also work. They welcomed me with open arms and kind hearts. Their continued generosity and care very much remind me of you, my Presbyterian family. Come fall, I will return to my home away from home and volunteer at the museum twice

a week, I hope this time as a school program docent. I am excited about what the museum has in store for me next year!

Overall, it has been a wonderful, fun-packed two semesters. I have truly been blessed to have had so many great opportunities this past year, and I have you, the congregation, to thank for it. Without your nurturing love and unfailing support, my first year college experience would not have been the same. As members of my church family, you have molded me into the strong-willed follower of Christ that I am today. Thank you and God bless! ❖

Two Students Receive the 2010 Deacons' Scholarship

by Kim Winker

Congratulations to the graduating high school seniors awarded the Deacons' Scholarship this year! The two students who applied for the scholarship were



Trent Talbot and Kate Tanner. Both received their well-deserved awards for \$2,000 from Deacon Moderator, Karlton Brown, at Graduation Sunday this past May 23rd.

Both Trent and Kate have been a part of our congregation since they were baptized here 18 years ago. Trent grew up being involved with Vacation Bible School (VBS), fellowship and youth group activities.

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Reflections...

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

"Can We Hear God Now?"

A few years ago, one of the cell phone companies had a memorable ad running that showed a person on his cell phone repeatedly asking the question, "Can you hear me now?" As irritating



as it was to listen to this man continue to ask the same question over and over again, especially as he moved from one place to another, the theme of the ad appears to have made its mark upon the American people.

Sometimes, I wonder if people don't think that they are having a similar problem with their prayers being heard by God. Maybe if we said our prayers at a certain time of the day or in a specific place, God would be more inclined to hear our petitions and answer us? Perhaps if we used a more extensive vocabulary in prayer and focused with greater specificity, it would not be so confusing for God to hear us.

But then, what if the question was turned around and we asked ourselves, "Can we hear God now?" How would we respond? Why is it that so many people seem to think that prayer is a one-way street where we are the ones who are always asking things of God? What if it is God that we really need to hear speaking to us?

Suddenly, the tables are turned, the proverbial shoe gets put on the other foot and we find ourselves standing in the spotlight with the question pointedly being asked, "Can we hear God now?"

What if God is really determined to ask us about our own ability or lack of ability to be responsive to God's calling and Word? How would we respond?

Would we acknowledge the relevance of being called by God to be faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ in this world? Would we embrace our holy calling and be thankful to God for giving us such a sacred blessing in this life? Or, would we do everything possible to avoid hearing God's call and divert our attention elsewhere?

Sometimes, it is well worth the effort to try our very best to hear the Voice of God speaking to us. Often, it can change our life not merely because of what God says but because God is speaking to us in a very direct, personal, and meaningful way. Can we hear what God is saying? If we do, what will we do about it? Hopefully, our response will be just as meaningful as the fact that God chooses to say it directly to us. ❖

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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
web page: www.firstdelray.com

The Spire

EDITOR:
Tim Knapp

LAYOUT:
Laura Martinez

PROOFREADER:
Barbara Vanderkay

SPECIAL THANKS:
Printers Choice

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Even if you give the name of the church upon admission, the hospital will NOT notify us.

"Deacon's Corner"

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As an International Baccalaureate student at Atlantic Community High School, Trent was a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Spanish National Honor Society. Additionally, he was active on the Student Government Association. Trent's love of athletics afforded him the opportunity to play several sports including basketball and volleyball. He took his passion for basketball and gave back to the community by dedicating much of his free-time to inspiring young athletes at different basketball camps and leagues and also assisting Trinity Lutheran School as a summer camp counselor. This fall, Trent will attend the University of Florida with the goal of studying medicine.

Kate has also participated in youth group and attended the Montreat Youth Conference for three years. Additionally, she has been a VBS and Bible Bunch volunteer and traveled to Chicago on a mission trip.

Like Trent, Kate's well-rounded high school years included being a member of the National

Honor Society and a part of Student Government at Spanish River High School. She also enjoyed involvement in the DECA Marketing Association and being a blood drive committee member. Outside of school, she has been an avid dancer with the Boca Dance Studio for the last 11 years. Kate will attend Florida State University and looks forward to exploring ways to help her new community in Tallahassee.

The Deacons proudly give these scholarships to Trent and Kate who have been exemplary Christians and students, and we pray for their continued success in their educational and extracurricular pursuits. We also congratulate and pray for all the other graduating seniors who are a part of our church family.

If you would like to learn more about the Deacons' Scholarship or would like to make a donation to it, please contact Alexandra Harris, Chair of the Deacons' Scholarship Committee, at 276-1998. ❖

Church Improvement Committee

by Barbara Vanderkay

The Holly House ladies are working hard on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, making new craft articles as well as some perennial favorites for the annual **Holly Days Bazaar**, the second weekend in November.

Ready for purchase now are the famous mango jam and chutney. Stop by during working hours or call Regie Moorcroft at 495-5376 to place your order for these inexpensive treats for your hostesses this winter, as well as for your own family table.

We hope our good Presbyterian suppliers will bring us more mangoes from the current later-ripening varieties. Thank you! It seems that the home-grown ones



have better flavor than any shipped in from afar. We're lucky.

Holly House workshops will close from **Tuesday, August 17th** until **Tuesday, September 7th, for a well deserved vacation.** Please plan to come in before that with any costume jewelry you can contribute. It is always checked, repaired and cleaned before the bazaar by our experienced jewelry group. ❖

One Worship Service at 10 a.m.

On **Sunday, May 2nd**,
we began holding only **one** worship service
at **10 a.m.**

We will resume two services in November.

Norfolk Mission Trip

by Tyler Smith

The Mission Trip to Norfolk, Virginia, was a lot of fun! We worked with groups from Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Rochester Hills, Michigan, and wouldn't have had even close to the same experience without them. Every day was nonstop from start to finish, and it was very tiring because of this; however, if it weren't for this nonstop action, none of us would have had the experience that we did.



We started each day early, waking up at 6:30. From there, we made our way to the mess hall, where we made our lunches before we made breakfast. After breakfast was finished, everyone

said goodbye and then broke off into work groups. From there we went to our designated worksites.

When we reached the worksite around 8:30, we got straight to work. We repaired houses for financially challenged homeowners in various ways: paint scraping, landscaping, paint scraping, cosmetic repairs, paint scraping, painting, and, last but not least, paint scraping! The work was tough, especially in 100-plus degree heat, but that just increased the camaraderie. In fact, the groups were so motivated that we all finished our houses ahead of schedule!

After we got back from work around 2:30, we cleaned up and then played games until dinnertime at the church. Our two favorite games were Ninja and Presidents, although we also played soccer and basketball. Ann Arbor and Rochester Hills also liked a game called euchre, but we Delray kids couldn't figure it out. They even had a euchre tournament! After dinner, we had our worship service, which was led by a different adult every night. The theme of the week was The Ten Commandments, and the serv-



ices were very well-coordinated. Even the sermons were interactive (as interactive as a sermon can get) and interesting! After all of this, everyone fooled around some more and then went to bed.

There were some special events during the week as well. As I mentioned before, there was the euchre tournament, which everybody except for us Delray kids participated in. There was also a dance competition on the very last night, and that was probably one of the funniest things I've ever seen. I think that everyone who was there would agree, especially, when the only all-boys team won! Also, after our last full day of work on Thursday, everyone met up at Virginia Beach for about 3 hours, and we all had an awesome time there! The waves at Virginia Beach are actually pretty good!

All of this was great, and everyone had a lot of fun with the events, but I think the best part of the trip is the part that I believe will last the longest ... the friendships that everyone created. People were so friendly to each other from the start, and it went from being friendly to being friends, quickly. I made friends that I still speak to, and I know that I am not the only one.

After the mission part was over, the youth groups parted ways, with the Michigan churches going white-water rafting and the Delray contingent going to Busch Gardens. We were surprised to discover that this Busch Gardens also had a roller coaster similar to Shiekra with a 90-degree drop, called the Griffon. We all rode this (in the front row!) at least three times each. But, of course, we did this with every roller coaster, even if we weren't in the front row.

The week started out quickly as soon as we got off the plane and ended on several good points. Everyone

had so much fun and this experience is one that I believe none of us will forget any time soon. I'd like to finish by giving special thanks to First Presbyterian Church for offering all of us the opportunity to expand our horizons and make new friends. Each of us is very grateful! I'd also like to thank Rev. Aaron and Jen Buce for taking time out of their busy schedules to accompany us on this trip, and I hope they had as much fun as we did! ❖

Mission Work + Friends + God = AMAZING Norfolk Mission Trip

by Rev. Aaron Janklow

The Norfolk Mission Trip is over and we have so many positive experiences and great memories to share. Thirteen youths, Jen Buce and I traveled to Norfolk, Virginia, where we did home repair work on eight work sites across the city. Groups scraped and

painted porches, repaired or replaced gutters, built needed handrails, did landscaping work, and whatever else we could do to improve homes of people approved by the city of Norfolk for this service work.

While I was proud of our youth for working so hard, what impressed me most were the relationships they developed. During the week we each grew closer in friendships with one another, and grew closer as a youth program. Through these friendships, worship, and the mission work we did, I believe that we ultimately grew closer to God. In addition to full days of mission work and having fun with friends during free time, we prayed often and gathered nightly for worship and also "back home" small group time. I am so thankful for each of the youth, and also the congregation who helped make this trip possible. While you were not on the ground with us in Norfolk, your support made a difference not only in the lives of those whose homes we worked on, but on all of the youth who attended. This was an awesome experience, thank you for your support. ❖

Ocala Mission Trip

by Mitchell Del Mastro

Recently the middle-schoolers of First Presbyterian Church of Delray went on a mission trip to Ocala, Florida. On this trip, we did a big variety of mission work. We painted playgrounds, moved a food kitchen, landscaped at a thrift store, mulched with pitch forks (my back is still killing me), and much more.

On this trip, we quickly learned to work together. We did all of our jobs with accuracy and speed, so we could fit more mission work into the amount of time that we had. We also had time for fun.

We went glass bottom boating at Silver Springs, fed giraffes, took Rev. Aaron's iPhone, ate a lot of junk food, pranked each other, and went swimming in a freezing spring. But also we always had time for prayer and small groups. We did this every evening and the morning that we left. Throughout the whole trip, we had such a blast in Ocala and A-Money (as Aaron became known) definitely has to plan more. Over all it was a great experience for everyone who went. ❖



An Awesome Three Days in Ocala

by Rev. Aaron Janklow

Almost immediately after returning from Norfolk, six middle school students, Dorinda Bagwell and I drove north to Ocala, Florida for the Middle School Mission Trip. There we worked hard on numerous projects. We moved a food pantry, painted and put mulch in a play-

ground, did landscaping work and even did filing work for Interfaith Emergency Services, and then some more mulching and pulling weeds at Silver Springs Shores Presbyterian Church, which is a community hub for the city. Through all of this, our youth worked hard and were great fun to

be around. We had reflection time, prayer, and "Get with God" time. Just as we did in Norfolk, I believe we grew closer as a youth group and to God through all of this. Again, thank you to all of the youth, parents, and the church for making such a great trip possible. ❖

VBS: Galactic Blast



by Rev. Aaron Janklow



For one week in June, 45 children and many volunteers took part in our Vacation Bible School program, Galactic Blast. It was a fun-filled week of learning about God through song, storytelling, games, and crafts. Each day, we looked at a Bible passage, and then a day followed in which we learned about our amazing and incredible God. A huge thank you to all who helped make this a great week. ❖



Let's All Take a "Time Out"

by Leslie Horenburger

On a recent trip to visit family in Kentucky, I spent some time with my Uncle Don.

Uncle Don has always been an interesting person to my cousins and me because he's the one who'd end up hanging out with the kids at family functions. He always has a ready laugh and no problems acting "goofy", a perfect adult playmate. He had a successful automobile repair business for many years, but was always investing in some side enterprise that was fun or interesting to us.

At one time he owned part of a par three golf course that provided the youngsters with a nice introduction to the game for free. On another occasion he showed up at our house driving an antique Model A which he kept for a while. It was "cool" riding around the neighborhood. Then he started pushing the envelope when he drove up in a big yellow school bus that he envisioned converting into a three-family vacation home that we'd drive to Florida for a visit to another uncle's family. The other brothers put the kibosh on that idea and instead we loaded up three cars (remember, this was before mini-vans and SUVs) with sixteen people in a caravan heading south on Dixie Highway... what a trip! Well... you get the idea with Uncle Don...

On this trip I toured the basement of his new house where he has set up some nice outdoor furniture (Interesting? Per Uncle Don, for relaxing and listening to music), his computer/desk area, a set of drums (yes,

he plays and now his granddaughter goes over for jam sessions, too) and his wood working shop. He proudly displays a wall of framed articles and information about his business that was sold ten years ago. Beneath the wall of frames I saw a very simple wood bench painted in two colors. When prompted, my uncle told me that it was called a "Time Out" bench.

As it turns out, this bench is going to be given to a cousin's son who is headed to high school next year. My uncle explained that he'd also made one of these

benches for his grandsons who were now preparing to be a lawyer and a doctor, respectfully. He paints them in the colors of the high school and the boys decorate them with decals and anything else they desire.

When he bestows the

"Time Out" on the young recipient he tells the following:

"This is your "Time Out" bench. When you find yourself upset and angry or frustrated, go sit on the bench, take a, "Time Out", and... count your blessings."

Shouldn't we all remember to take a "Time Out"? ❖



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:

Marguerite (Peggy) Greene - May 24, 2010

Arlene Sjostrom - June 5, 2010

Greg Howarth - June 19, 2010

Scott Ellington - July 6, 2010 ❖

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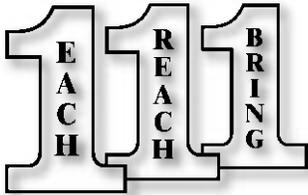
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This newsletter is available online at www.firstdelray.com. If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter, please email Nancy Fine at nancyfine@covad.net.

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10 a.m.

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



Back to School Bash

*Saturday, August 21st
at 4 p.m. in the
Gathering Place*

Join us for a Pot Luck, BBQ and Pool Party sponsored by the Christian Education Committee on Saturday, August 21st at 4 p.m. in the Gathering Place (two story beige house located at the southeast corner of the church property). This is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. ❖

Our Sunday worship services are now streaming online!

Watch when you are out-of-town, away at college or when you are not feeling well enough to attend.

Keep connected even when you can't be here. Simply request a "ticket ID" from Nancy Fine in the church office 276-6338, ext. 10 or nancyfine@covad.net so you can log onto www.SundayStreams.com to view our Sunday services. ❖