

Please Welcome Rev. Dr. Mack Sigmon as our Interim Senior Pastor

by Bob Teninga

Chair of the Interim Pastor
Nominating Committee



The Lord has provided and we are blessed to have our Interim Pastor in place to have him lead us in worship for the near future. "Dr. Mack Sigmon" has come to us after many months of searching with over 125 candidates to consider. The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC) was made up of Tom Elliott, Jim Fisher, Tim Knapp, Pat Moss, Mary Jane Sickle, Rob Tanner, Bill Talen and

on July 10, 2011.

We have received a wonderful gift from the Lord. ❖

myself. We went to the Session members to get their approval. They all approved and accepted him as our God's chosen Interim Pastor. Dr. Mack Sigmon heard the "Calling" to come to our great Church after numerous visits, phone calls with him and his family.

Dr. Mack Sigmon comes to us from the Presbytery of Charlotte, NC and is highly respected. He will be in our presence and on our church campus as of July 8, 2011 and will be preaching

Support Our Special Place

by Jim Fisher

Chair, Board of Trustees

From the Financial Updates provided weekly in our Sunday Bulletin, it should be evident that we have an approximate \$50,000 shortfall in collections against the planned receipts in our annual budget. Accordingly, we have taken steps to reduce our spending. Under the guidance of the Board of Trustees and with the great cooperation of all of the church staff who have demonstrated a most helpful attitude toward implementing cost savings, approximately \$40,000 in reduced annual costs have been realized thus

far. These reductions have come in areas of maintenance contracts, modifications of insurance coverage, utility conservation, facility repairs, and improved use of technology. The savings were realized without reduction of any programs offered to church members and guests.

Nevertheless, we also need your help. Let us all keep our pledges current. First Presbyterian Church needs your support. As you enter the Sanctuary on any given Sunday morning, take a few moments to meditate on the beauty and special meaning of this place. Think about the music and messages you will hear, the reminders of Christ's love

as evident in the stained glass, the work of this church with young people, the work carried on in our larger community, and as well as the people with whom you share a pew. Say a prayer for our new Interim Pastor, Dr. Mack Sigmon. This is an exciting time for him and us. We are so blessed. Truly, this is a special place!

Please do all you can to support First Presbyterian Church. ❖

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Mack's Message

by Rev. Dr. Mack Sigmon

Interim Pastor

I want to begin my first newsletter message by expressing my thanksgiving to God for the opportunity to serve as your Interim Pastor. I also want to share my cell phone number (704-430-8811). I am on call for you 24/7. The door of my office is always open to you. You may have questions about the transitional period between pastors; you may have questions about recent events in the denomination; you may have biblical or spiritual concerns; I am here to help.

Christ will determine the length of time that we will have together, but during that time I look forward to praying with you, laughing with you, singing with you, sharing fellowship with you, and joining you in the great mission of First Presbyterian. As I have said to Rev. Aaron, the members of the staff, and your elected leaders, I rejoice at how the Holy Spirit is moving First Presbyterian into the life and hearts of this community. I am excited and humbled to be a part of this congregation, as is my wife, Amy, and my daughter, Patti.

Since many of you do not know us, allow me to share just a few things about the Sigmons. I am Mack. If you wish, you may call me Dr. Mack. If you wish to be seriously formal, you may call me the Rev. Dr. Lawrence McBride Sigmon; that will not bother me, because I have been called worse. I am a lifelong Presbyterian. My parents are currently serving as Deacon and Elder in my home church in Charlotte. I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a double major in Religion and English. After serving with the Peace Corps in Zaire, Africa (now the Congo), I returned to Charlotte and taught for several years. During this time, I served as a Deacon in my home church, and felt a call to explore a church vocation. I entered Princeton Theological Seminary with the thought of becoming a seminary or college teacher, but discovered that Christ had another thought.

As I studied and performed my field education, both in churches and as a student chaplain at the Trenton State Prison, I felt a call into parish ministry. It was during my time at Princeton that I met my future wife, Amy Sass. Though Amy and I dated in seminary, she was just beginning her studies as I was graduating. I became the minister of Derita Presbyterian Church in Charlotte (pronounced De-rye-ta,) which was located in the rapidly-growing university area. After several years, the church had grown to the point where we needed an Associate Pastor. At about that same time, Amy's father (who had taken a liking to me) called out of the blue to say that Amy was looking for a church, and asked if I knew of any opportunities in the Charlotte area. I told him that I knew of one opportunity. He was thinking of one thing; I was thinking of another. I arranged for Amy to visit Charlotte, and at dinner that evening I asked her to marry me. She said "yes". I think her dad is still in shock. Not only did Amy and I marry, but she became the Associate Pastor, wasting neither of the opportunities available.

Amy and I served Derita for 8 years, during which we worked with the congregation in building a new

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Church Staff

Mack Sigmon, Ph.D.
Interim Pastor

Theodore A. Bush, Ph.D.
Pastor Emeritus

Aaron Janklow, M.Div.
Associate Pastor

Jo Garnett, M.C.E.
Associate for Senior Ministries

Donald J. Cannarozzi, M.M., J.D.
Organist / Director of Music

James K. Poch, S.M.M.
Associate Director of Music

Jen Buce
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Nancy Fine
Office Manager

Christine Davis Paula Hare
Accountant Secretary

Aaron Strippel Rita Avery
Head Custodian Custodian

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The Spire

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If you or a family member are hospitalized, please notify the church office. Even if you give the name of the church upon admission, the hospital will NOT notify us.

Continued from Page 2 Sanctuary to accommodate the growth. Our daughter, Patricia, was born two months before we left for my next call as Senior Pastor of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Clearwater, Florida. Patti thus grew up in Florida, and considers herself to be a true Florida girl. Amy served local congregations in the Tampa Bay Presbytery as an Interim or as a Temporary Supply. It was during my service at Peace that I began working on my Doctor of Ministry through Columbia Theological Seminary. Amy and I both received our Doctor of Ministry degrees in 2001. After serving Peace for ten years, we moved back to Charlotte where I served as Senior Minister of Sharon Presbyterian Church.

After my service at Sharon, we decided to stay in the area because we did not want to move Patti out of

her school. Looking for a temporary position in the area, I became Interim Pastor of the Locust Presbyterian Church, which is a bedroom community of Charlotte. I served Locust as an Interim for over three years, during which I received my Certification in Interim Ministry. Patti entered the University of North Carolina School of the Arts high school program (as a Visual Artist) last September, and Locust called their new minister in April.

I feel Christ has called me to interim ministry in this time in my life, and I feel Christ has called me to serve First Presbyterian. For the initial period of my service to you, Amy and Patti will be living in Charlotte (Patti is in her senior year.) Amy will be moving down to join me at some point after the school year begins.

Now that you know a little bit about our story, I look forward to

hearing your stories, and how Christ is using your gifts in this wonderful church. I am very excited about working with Rev. Aaron. I have great respect for the work he is doing with youth and the young adults, and also for how he has helped First Presbyterian through the pre-interim period. I hope you will join me in praying for Rev. Aaron, the leaders, and the youth for a safe and meaningful mission trip, and for their upcoming trip to Montreat.

Finally, I am asking for your prayerful support as we begin working together. I know that, through the love of Christ, we will mutually deepen our spiritual lives in the time to come. Together we will treasure the past, serve the needs of the present, and claim a future that is already prepared for us by the loving hands of the Father. Thank you for your warm welcome. ❖

Stephen Ministers

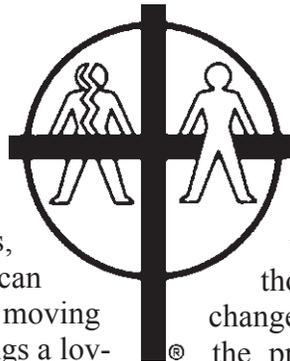
by David Fellows

How often do we allow the past to act as a ball and chain in our present lives? “Couldas, Wouldas, Shouldas,” “If Onlys,” and “Why Mes” can keep us from fully living in the present. Accumulated regrets, remorse, guilt and shame from the past can immobilize us. They can prevent us from moving forward to fully experience the many blessings a loving God has provided for us in the present. Part of the problem with the past is that we are powerless over it. As much as we may want to, we can’t change it.

In the *Rubaiyat*, Omar Khayyam observed:

“The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ
Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it.”

God was somewhat less poetic when He bluntly instructed the Israelites: “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.” (Isaiah 43:18)



But how does one forget the past? How can we not get stuck in our own personal history? How can we avoid the temptation to sit around and feel sorry for ourselves? We have to take control of our mind and our thought processes. We cannot appreciate the world around us as long as we allow our thoughts to drift to what has been. We must change the focus of our mind’s eye from the past to the present. This is what God tried to get the Israelites to do, as He continued in Isaiah 43:19, “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”

One of the most practical exercises to bring us out of the past and into the present is to do a “gratitude list.” Make a list of the things in our life for which we are grateful - - - our own “streams in the wasteland,” if you will. This simple action, can redirect our thoughts and begin to create an “attitude of gratitude.” Then we can thankfully embrace the words of the psalmist, “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24) ❖

"Deacons' Corner"

2011 Deacons' Scholarship Recipient

by Siena Del Mastro

As a congregation, we definitely have something to celebrate this month. Tyler Smith, who recently graduated from Boca Raton High School, has been awarded the 2011 Deacons' Scholarship. He attended this church his whole life and has been a member for about a year and an active member of the Youth Group.

In order to receive this scholarship, you must fill out a detailed application. The Deacons consider your school and extracurricular activities as well as your church activities. Tyler was in the National Honor Society, a member of Student Government and the Boy Scouts, where he was the only one in his

group to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. He was on the varsity football team and played in the jazz and symphonic band.

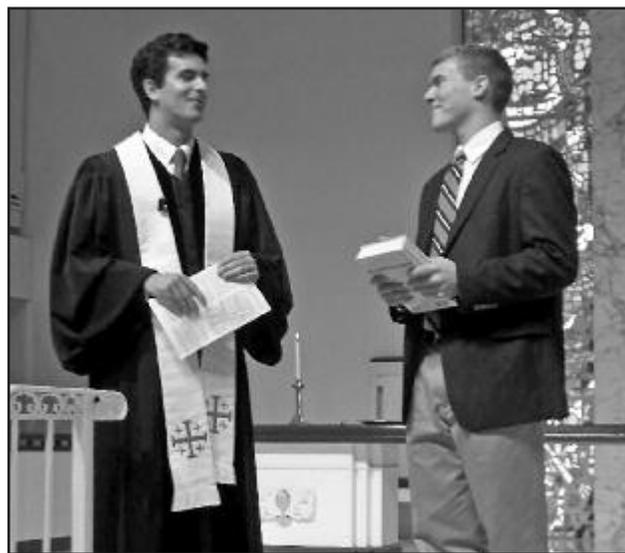
The members of the Scholarship Committee also look at how active you are in the church. Last summer Tyler went on the mission trip to Virginia when the youth helped several families with home repairs.

On the winter vacation he went on the mission trip to Immokalee. He also attended the Youth Conference in Montreat, North Carolina, where some 800 teenagers gathered to learn more about Jesus Christ.

In the fall, Tyler will enter Purdue University in Indiana. He will study aeronautical and aero-

space engineering. This will include classes in the technology, development and implementation of pretty much anything that flies. In the future, Tyler hopes to build rockets and spaceships.

This coming month, let us all pray for Tyler Smith and his success as he becomes a freshmen at Purdue University. ❖



Meet Your New Deacons

by Siena Del Mastro

Continuing from the last issue, we have some additional Deacons to introduce. These are the last set of new Deacons. Their names are Jane Amme, Laurie Erickson, Beverly Jensen, Charles Moore, and Patricia Years.

Starting with Jane Amme, as a Deacon, she wants to help her flock and tend to their needs. She loves being in a Christian group of people and enjoys the camaraderie of all the Deacons as a group. Jane is on the Christmas Tree Committee and the Scholarship Fund Committee. She likes the Christmas Tree Committee because you get to help many families and children. By being a part of the Scholarship Fund Committee, she can help deserving students to further their education. Some interesting things about

Jane are that she plays golf and she tries to practice and play once a week. She also enjoys reading fiction and just recently finished reading *The Roses*. Some of her favorite books are *Sarah's Key* and *Major Pettigree's Last Stand*.

Laurie Erickson's main goal for being a Deacon is to know more members of the congregation. She wants to help her flock and to get closer to the church. She is also a member of the Scholarship Fund Committee. An interesting fact about Laurie is that she works with the universities in West Virginia. Her job is to raise money and promote development for the universities.

Beverly Jensen is another new Deacon. She feels honored to be asked to be a Deacon. She is also very active in the church and is glad to be in a position to serve this way. She is involved in the Monday Morning Women's Bible Study and likes the fact that everyone cares about each other and is accepting and tolerant of others. Her favorite part about being a Deacon is the

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Montreat Youth Conference

by Rev. Aaron Janklow

I have been to Montreat as both a student and leader, and never have I heard a trip participant say anything but enthusiastic comments about the experience. It is a great week of worship, singing, energizers, and growing closer to one another, and ultimately closer to God. This year, we are bringing thirteen youths and two advisors. It will be a wonderful trip, I'm sure. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers from July 23rd through July 30th.

News from the Senior Pastor Nominating Committee

by Kathy Smith

Congregational Mission Study complete – **Check**
Church Information Form (CIF) complete – **Check**
CIF approved by Session on May 17th, 2011 – **Check**
Tropical Presbytery approved CIF on June 2nd, 2011 – **Check**
CIF placed on the National Presbytery Website – **Check**
Receiving Personal Information Forms from candidates – **Check**

The Pastor Nominating Committee has received all approvals necessary and has started the process of reviewing the Personal Information Forms (PIF) from potential candidates. We will spend the next period of time in our diligent search for our next Senior Pastor. As pledged, we will be thorough and complete in our review and intentions seeking our next leader. We continue to ask for the members of our congregation to have patience along with continued prayers as we listen and work to find God's call for our next Senior Pastor.

Luke 11:9-10, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will open to you. For everyone that asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." ❖



Children's Corner: VBS 2011 Update

by Jen Buce

Children's Ministry Coordinator

We had over 60 children ages 3 to 10 take a walk on the wild side at Vacation Bible School from June 6th through June 10th. We learned that God made you, He listens to you, watches over you, loves you no matter what and gives you good gifts!

Each morning we watched Chadder the Chipmunk solve the mystery of the missing Pandas and then took a minute to write how we saw God in our lives. Then it was off to groups. The kids discovered that God is wild about them—a fact that will change them forever!

Each day there were new and exciting arts and crafts being made, fun bamboo blast games being played, delicious tree top treats being devoured, children, youth, and adults singing and dancing to the great songs and incredible acting of the Bible stories. We had the children act out the creation of the world; there were fish, vines, water, and animals. We had a fireman put out Elijah's Alter, and we created a big

whale that the children climbed inside to hear the story of Jonah.

The children soaked up the fun! They grew and participated in activities that they normally might be too timid to try. We watched the youngest children blossom, play and sing their hearts out. All week long, the children brought in nonperishable foods that were given to the Caring Kitchen the following Monday.

What a great feeling it was to know that the children could not wait to come back each morning! We are already looking forward to planning next year's VBS and thinking of ways to improve the program.

Vacation Bible School would never have been so good without its incredible team! There were many volunteers behind the scenes who worked to make this such a success. All of the office staff was so precise with their organizational skills and everyday set up. The congregation helped by providing the props. The volunteers that worked VBS; their valuable advice and each day making sure that the children had fun and were kept safe. They loved the children as if they were their own. Thank you to all of the parents, children and volunteers. ❖

"Deacons' Corner"

Continued from Page 4

warm feeling among the people and being able to do things for others. Something interesting about Beverley is the fact that she has lived in 36 homes, whether across the street or across the world. She has been to many European countries and has three daughters. They live in Boca Raton, Anchorage, Alaska, and Richmond, Virginia.

Next, is Charles Moore. Charles was a Deacon at this church previously. He wants to help people for the good Lord, Who created all of us, earth, heaven, and the universe. Charles had a skiing accident in Chicago and had to learn everything all over again and boy did he do a good job. Thank the good Lord for that! He went to school in Texas and he worked as a stockbroker.

Patricia Years is the final Deacon, who is known as Patty. Patty was a Deacon before in another Presbyterian Church in Elcajon, California. She thinks

it is a great pleasure greeting and ushering people to their seats. She likes being a part of a group that helps people in the church. Patty hopes to meet as many people in the church as possible. She also believes that the purpose of being a Deacon is to help others in the community. Patty has many talents and hobbies. She is an avid quilter and recently taught herself how to knit. She makes jewelry which she puts on display in fashion shows and auctions. She also taught an art class for two years in Jacksonville. There was also a period of time where she painted many watercolors.

I hope in the past two issues that you have all gained some insight about our new Deacons. Don't be afraid to go up to a Deacon and introduce yourself. We're all here to spread the word of God and Jesus' teachings. If you ever have a question, come and ask us or speak to your Deacon. God bless you all this month. ❖



My First Year College Update

by Trent Talbot

As May and June have come along, summer once again rolls in and marks the end of my first year at the University of Florida. I had a great year in Gainesville, and though I am glad to be home relaxing and visiting with friends and family, the fact that I cannot wait to head back to school just goes to show how awesome a time I have had there.

Adjusting to college life was not very difficult for me, but I do have to admit that there were many times during my somewhat challenging first semester that I wished to be back home in Delray Beach, a city I have been a part of my entire life. Part of the cause and solution to my stress were one in the same,

and that was pledging a fraternity, Beta Theta Pi. As times were sometimes difficult, the idea of a brotherhood and the availability of a large, close group of friends always brought me through. After my minor initial struggle, I never once looked back and enjoyed every minute of every day (even studying!). Through my fraternity, I had a large group of friends that only grew, and there was always someone to go to the gym with, to study with, and even at times, go to church with.

While back home over a much needed Christmas break I had the chance to go on the Youth Mission Trip to Immokalee, Florida. There, we met up with the Ann Arbor, Michigan youth group, and together we took on three separate work sites. During the day we worked on fixing and renovating trailers that local families in need lived in, and at night we all spent time together in the beautiful ranch house that the church provided for us. It was a rewarding experience, and for my first mission trip I found it quite enjoying.

I truly enjoyed my first year in Gainesville and look forward to going back in August. For this time though, I am happy here, back in Delray Beach with old friends and family. ❖



My First Year College Experience

by Kate Tanner

My first year at Florida State University has been nothing short of extraordinary. At a school with over 40,000 students there is a limitless list of activities to get involved in.

To start off the fall semester, I joined my sorority, Pi Beta Phi. I didn't know beforehand that I would get so many opportunities to succeed just out of a house filled with girls. Right away I got involved in an event called Cheers for Charity. This is where all the sororities competed in cheering to raise money for a philanthropy. It was a great way to have fun, get involved, and do it all for a good cause. Also in the fall was one of Pi Phi's philanthropies called Chili Cook-off. All the fraternities competed to make the best chili. All the money we made that day headed straight to our charity called First Book. Who would have thought guys could actually cook good chili?

Of course in such a huge school with several things to do at once, making priorities and time management very important. Undoubtedly, everyone can agree that going to college is for deciding what to do with the rest of your life. As a freshman, I have been struggling with deciding my future. Between the hundreds of major options it isn't easy to narrow it down to just one. Luckily with career centers and advisors, FSU has made it simpler. When winter break rolled around I made a last minute decision to join our church's mission trip to Immokalee, Florida. For the sever-

al days that we were there, we worked on homes that needed serious help. I can admit that I am not the best handyman when it comes to using drills and hammers, but it was amazing to see the progress we made in a short time. It was a great experience to be back working with the church and also to see the progress the youth have made in the little time that I have been gone.

Soon enough, spring semester came around faster than I could blink. As the cold weather slowly withered down and new schedules were setting in, I continued on my journey as a freshman. In spring, there are two big philanthropies that roll around every year. First was a philanthropy put on by a fraternity called Line Dance. All the sororities compete with dances containing hip hop, contemporary, and jazz. This was no doubt my favorite event. We worked hard for three months to prepare just for this one show. Fortunately all of our hard work paid off when our sorority placed first! Also in the spring is Pi Phi's biggest philanthropy event called All Fraternity Revue. This is similar to Line dance just with the fraternity boys dancing instead of the girls. It may have been one of the funniest things I've ever watched! But I was also in awe from the amount of money we made from such a simple event. We were able to give almost \$2,000 to First Book, which is a huge achievement.

Although it went by too fast, my freshman year was a great experience. From learning how to balance time to figuring out what I wanted to do with the rest of my life it was all well worth it and I cannot wait for the next three years. I wanted to give special thanks to the Deacons for providing me with such a great scholarship. It has allowed me to dive into new things and gain knowledge from many different sources. ❖

Church Improvement

by Barbara Vanderkay

By popular request, the Holly House ladies are going to gather in Fellowship Hall every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. for coffee, conversation and some easy work on projects for the November Holly Days Bazaar. Our fellowship means too much for us to let it wane. We hope you will join us whenever you can.

Thanks to our many mango growers, we have already made lots of

mango chutney and jam. Please call Regie Moorcroft at 495-5376 if you would like some before the bazaar. We have received some jewelry and will be glad to accept more. It is such a good selling category in November that we are always eager to have more items. The jewelry ladies are happy to have things come in early, so bring them any time.

To keep you up to date on where some of our Church Improvement Funds have gone recently, we replaced the older refrigerator in the

Fellowship Hall kitchen which had lasted about 25 years. The new commercial one cost \$2,435, and if it also lasts 25 years, it will have been well worth it. We also spent \$1,366 on updating the Senior Pastor's office. Neither of these expenses were in the budget, so they are exactly what the Church Improvement Committee was organized to cover.

The mills of the gods continue to grind slowly, but we will have a new Holly House before too long. We'll keep you posted. ❖

High School Mission Trip to Portland, Jamaica



by Rev. Aaron Janklow

By the time you read this we will have already returned from our High School Mission Trip to Portland, Jamaica, but I am writing this just before we depart. After months of preparation and planning, it is wonderful to be finally embarking on this mission trip. At an early pre-trip meeting with parents and youth, I told them that this mission trip has the awesome potential to change lives. This trip might be a once in a lifetime experience for some, but for others this experience could be just the beginning of trips like this.

We are bringing twelve youths and four advisors to Jamaica, where we have three carpentry projects inside the Sanctuary of St. George's Anglican Church in Buff Bay, a painting project in Drapers, and finishing a veranda and chicken coup in Comfort Castle. We will be sleeping on air mattresses in the empty rectory of St. George's Church and Buff Bay will be our "home base" for the week.

I look forward to the next edition of the Spire where we will have articles written by the youth, accompanied with pictures from this mission trip. It will be a week of hard work and wonderful fun as we serve God in this way. ❖

High School Mission Trip to Marathon, Florida

by Rev. Aaron Janklow

Two weeks from when I am writing this article, our Middle School Mission Trip to Marathon will be taking place. In Marathon, we will be staying at Kirk in the Keys (PCUSA), and will be working with KAIR (a food bank), preparing meals for homebound people, visiting a turtle hospital, and stopping by the beach, of course. In addition to our service projects, we will be having "Get With God Times" each morning and nightly reflection times. This will be a great trip and wonderful way to serve others and realize that we can have fun in the process. ❖



Kellen Smith, who grew up in this congregation, was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in our Sanctuary on June 18th. Kellen has accepted a call as Associate Pastor for Youth, their Families and College Ministries at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania.



Executive Summary for First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach

by Karlton Brown

Shortly after the retirement of Dr. Theodore Bush, The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was formed as a result of a vote by Session upon the acceptance of guidance from the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. The Presbytery suggested that members of the Pastor Nominating Committee should be persons with a good understanding of the nature and mission of the church, and of their particular congregation. Upon completion of a Needs Assessment by the PNC, it was determined that a Congregational Study would be in order and a third party data analytics firm, Simple Survey Solutions, was retained for this purpose.

A ten page evaluation entitled *First Presbyterian Church Congregational Study* was distributed to 715 members of the congregation of which 335 congregants participated by responding. The responding congregants represent a phenomenal response rate of 47%. Such a response rate is indicative of a population that cares very much about the subject matter.

The Congregational Study was divided into twelve sections: Background and Training Elements, Special Focus and Ability, Personal Characteristics, Church Financial Commitments, Need and Readiness for Change, Inclusiveness and Diversity, Near Future Decisions, Information Sharing, Information Gathering, Worship Services, Church Connectedness, and Spiritual Life Building.

The majority of congregation's respondents felt that "*Preaching Skills*" was the most important *Background and Training Element* a Senior Pastor / Head of Staff should possess.

The majority of the congregation's respondents felt that "*Pastoral Care*" was the most important *Special Focus and Ability* a Senior Pastor / Head of Staff should possess.

The majority of the congregation's respondents felt that "*Integrity*" was the most important *Personal Characteristic* a Senior Pastor / Head of Staff should possess.

The majority of the congregation's respondents felt that "*Youth Ministry*" was the most important *Church Financial Commitment*.

The majority of the congregation's respondents felt that "*Our church must be vigilant in preserving its traditions in the face of a rapidly changing world*" in response to questions regarding *Need and Readiness for Change*.

The majority of the congregation's respondents felt that "*Our church must increase its membership and leadership from among younger people*" in response to questions regarding *Inclusiveness and Diversity*.

The majority of the congregation's respondents felt that "*Increasing the number of members of the church*" was the most important *Near Future Decision*.

The majority of the congregation's respondents felt that "*People in our congregation are kept well informed about the programs and activities of the church*" in response to questions regarding *Information Sharing*.

The majority of the congregation's respondents felt that the "*Church service bulletin and worship announcements*" are the ways to *Get Information About Our Church*.

The majority of the congregation's respondents felt that "*Music makes a positive contribution to our worship*" in response to questions regarding *Worship Services*.

The majority of the congregation's respondents felt that "*First Presbyterian Church of Delray is a deeply caring church for its members*" in response to questions regarding *Connectedness within Our Church*.

The majority of the congregation's respondents felt that "*Our church gives me ample opportunity to grow spiritually and in the knowledge of God*" in response to questions regarding *Spiritual Life Building*.

The demographic variables of the respondents in the Congregational Study were divided into seven sections: Church Participation, Membership Tenure, Gender, Age Range, Existential Viewpoint, Worship Attendance, and Intra-church Affiliation Attendance.

37% of the congregation's respondents were "*Church Committee Members*" in response to questions regarding *Church Participation*.

The percentage of the congregation's respondents that "*Have Been A Member of This Church*" are as follows:

- 30% have been a member of this church for 10 – 19 Years
- 24% have been a member of this church for 20 Years or more
- 19% have been a member of this church for 6 – 9 Years

The "*Gender*" ratio of the congregation's respondents is:

55% Female to 45% Male

The "*Age Group*" of the congregation's respondents are as follows:

- 34% are 75 – 84 Years Old
- 26% are 65 – 74 Years Old
- 13% are 85 + Years Old
- 11% are 55 – 64 Years Old
- 9% are 35 – 54 Years Old
- 6% are 15 – 34 Years Old

The "*Existential Viewpoint*" of the congregation's respondents are as follows:

- 39.4% consider themselves to be "Moderate"
- 38.8% consider themselves to be "Conservative"
- 13.7% consider themselves to be "Liberal"

The "*Sunday Worship Attendance*" of congregation's respondents are as follows:

- 44% attend "Most of the Time"
- 37% attend "Always"
- 13% attend "Sometimes"
- 2% attend "Rarely"

The "*Intra-church Affiliation Attendance (Social, Study, or Ministry Group other than Session, Deacons' Meeting, or Committee Meeting)*" of congregation's respondents are as follows:

- 29% attend "Rarely"
- 24% attend "Sometimes"
- 19% attend "Never"

Based on these statistics it is clear that congregation's respondents of First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach are very involved in the life of their church, mainly through worship and church affiliated boards of leadership. There is a clear sense of passion and dedication, as this is indicated by the years of membership tenure. The leadership characteristics that the congregants of a church seek in their Senior Pastor / Head of Staff are often indicative of the average temperament of the congregation; which in this particular study of First Presbyterian Church of Delray is one of yearning for the Word of God, Pastoral Care, and Integrity.

It would behoove the congregation to investigate programs to attract the 15 to 54 age group; which at 15% is underrepresented of the respondent population. This indicates that 85% of the congregation's respondents are 55 and older. Nevertheless, the age group distribution should be positively considered as the leadership and experiential resources of the 55 and older age group within the congregation are extensive and therefore the intrinsic qualities, both spiritual and vocational, are greatly enhanced. Furthermore, it would be remiss not to point out that age group demographics of First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach must also be attributed to age group norms for the surrounding geographical region of the church which is Delray Beach within the County of Palm Beach, Florida.

The overall pattern of the responses indicates a strong spiritual awareness and a perpetual drive towards God in an inclusive and orderly way. This is apparent throughout the entire respondent population which is favorable for future growth, fiscal stability, and evangelistic opportunities. ❖

Our Volunteers Are Special: Meet Roger Johnson

by Nancy Fine

Office Manager

First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach is blessed with many individuals who volunteer their time and talents in many areas of the church. These people devote many hours to enhancing the programming, administrative tasks and physical beauty of this church. One such volunteer is Roger Johnson.

Roger and his wife, Joyce, first joined our congregation in September 2002. An Elder and Chair of the Property Committee during that time, he devoted many hours to working on bettering the campus. One such undertaking was the Cross Garden. Located east of Fellowship Hall, this garden features the steeple cross from the original church steeple,

which was removed after the 2004 hurricanes. Roger and his family designed and implemented this peaceful garden on the church property, at little to no cost to the church. If you haven't taken the time to visit it, take a moment to stop by the east side in the front of Fellowship Hall and discover this serene setting that Roger and his family created.

After moving to Kentucky in 2006, Roger and Joyce returned to South Florida in 2009, where once again Roger became an Elder. Taking up where he left off, Roger immediately got to work volunteering with Aaron Strippel, our Head Custodian. From weeding the gardens, to hanging plaques in



the Christian Learning Center, to knocking down walls in the Maintenance Shop, as well as undertaking any task that needs to be done, Roger has become a valuable asset to our maintenance crew. Aaron said about Roger, "I wish I had ten more like him. He is always willing to do whatever is needed, with a smile on his face."

We thank Roger for all of his hard work and dedication to Christ's Church and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach. The next time you see Roger, take a moment to say thank you to him for the time and talent that he gives our church home. ❖



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:

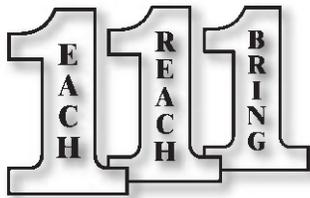
Betty Risdon – May 20, 2011
Jane Dorschel – May 21, 2011
Virginia Adams – May 24, 2011
Vivian Hill – May 27, 2011
Sally Kruse – May 31, 2011
Phyllis Barrett – July 1, 2011

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 Service

10 a.m.



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. ❖