



## Per Capita

*(about that blue envelope in your box of weekly offering envelopes)*



In case you are wondering what the blue envelope near the beginning of your 2011 offering envelope box is for, you are not the only one. "Per Capita" is the assessment each congregation pays for each church member recorded on their membership rolls. It is assessed by our denomination (Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.) to cover the required administrative expenses to operate the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly offices of each judicatory. These expenses are rounded out to \$35 per member for 2011.

Since the Per Capita is included in calculating our operating budget, not everyone contributes extra to this source. Others prefer to do so in order to help ease a little of the financial burden that this places upon the church budget. A little extra giving does make a difference when our congregation's total Per Capita assessment is \$23,381. Thank you to those who choose to help. ❖

## Stewardship Campaign 2011 Update

*by Kurt Bagwell*

### Pledge goal for operating funds is \$1,000,000

So far we are still short of our goal and are looking for your support if you have not yet pledged.

The church has been operating in a deficit for a couple of years and we need everyone to commit time and funds as they can. Our church has a lot of great things happening right now and we need to raise our operating funds to the proper level to support the programs and avoid any cuts. If you have already turned in your pledge card, "thank you!" If you have not, please contact Christine at 276-6338, ext. 16, or send a note with your pledge. ❖



## A Minute for Stewardship

*by Rev. Aaron Janklow*

For many years, First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach has done important things, not only for our members, but for the community as well. We are a caring church, actually much larger than the congregation that gathers each Sunday. Our services are streamed over the internet, and DVDs are delivered to members who are not with us in the Sanctuary. We visit our members in hospitals and in their homes. We support missions, both financially and in person, as our members and church are actively involved in serving others. But what I also want to point out is that WE are a mission. As we give to others, by supporting various non-profit organizations, we are a mission in ourselves. We seek to enable others to know Christ and to realize how much God loves us all.

Each week in the Sunday Bulletin there is a current report on the status of stewardship pledges for 2011. It reads, "As of ... we have received \$... of our \$1,000,000 goal from ... pledges. This is ...% of our 533 pledging units." If you

*Continued on Page 2*

### INSIDE . . .

**Spiritual Life Retreat . . .** Page 2  
*Chris Del Mastro*

**Church Improvement . . .** Page 4  
*Barbara Vanderkay*

**Year in Review . . . . .** Page 5  
*Jen Buce*

Continued from Page 1

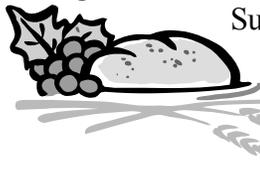
have already pledged, thank you so much. If you have not yet pledged, I ask that you don't just necessarily consider these figures, but consider the role of the church in your life and home.

Over the course of this year with you, I have seen and felt a wonderful energy; we've had

good new members' classes, increased children and youth activities, great music, and most importantly, a congregation that cares about each other and this church. I want to see all of this continue. If this is a place where you feel Christ's love, we ask you to consider prayerfully how to respond. ❖

## Communion

The Worship and Music Committee recommended to Session that the Sacrament of Communion be celebrated monthly. Session enthusiastically endorsed this idea. For 2011, Communion will be celebrated on the following dates: January 2nd (Epiphany), February 6th, March 13th (the First Sunday in Lent), April 21st (Maundy Thursday), May 1st, June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th, September 4th, October 2nd (World Communion Sunday), November 6th and December 4th. ❖



## Spiritual Life Retreat

Coming in January

by Chris Del Mastro



Do you want a break from cooking and doing dishes for a whole weekend? Would you like a weekend of fellowship with friends? Would you like a chance to get to know your church family better? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, come join us for a great weekend at the "Circle F Dude Ranch" in Lake Wales. January 21st through January 23rd are the dates. The weather should be fabulous and there will be many great activities to enjoy as well as time to grow spiritually. All ages are encouraged to come. The only requirement is an adventurous spirit, as we will be staying in cabins with bunk beds. There are showers and delicious home-style cooking. The cost is \$40 per person and is due by January 5th. Please mark your calendars and call the church office to reserve your space. (276-6338) ❖



## Church Staff

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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*Printers Choice*

**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.**



# Looking Out to the Ocean

by Rev. Aaron Janklow

At the December Youth Beach Event, over twenty youth and five advisors gathered at the beach in front of the Marriot. It was a beautiful night as we watched the moon rise over the Atlantic Ocean. After throwing the football around, playing different games, and having dinner, we gathered together for a time of prayer and worship. At every beach event this past fall I have delivered a message on a Biblical passage centered upon Jesus' ministry on or around the Sea of Galilee.

On this Sunday, I asked the youth to look at the moonlit ocean and imagine a fishing boat in the distance. Sure enough, a few students shouted, "Look out there, there's one!" Then I asked them to picture the disciples on this boat enjoying the calm weather, when suddenly a storm hits and the waves swell, and the disciples turn to Jesus asking Him to calm the storm. Life has so many ups and downs, but through it all Jesus is there with us. No matter how big the

waves in our life, Jesus is with us.

As we gathered on the beach that night looking out to the ocean, it seemed that there is so much mystery in this world and in our lives. I have always found something very mysterious about the ocean at night, and yet God knows the depths of the ocean (Psalm 95:4; 139:8). While we don't know where life, or even the New Year, will take us, we are to put our trust in God that no matter what we face, the love of God remains true. God is with us always. ❖

## 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:

Elizabeth Grosshanten – October 29, 2010

Gerald Ritthaler – November 3, 2010

Mary Southard – November 27, 2010

Clara Rowles – December 6, 2010 ❖



## Christmas Pageant Was a Success

Once again, the Children's Christmas Pageant held on Sunday, December 12th at the 11 a.m. service brought smiles to the faces of the congregation. Coordinated by Jim Poch and Jen Buce, this annual event was one of the highlights of the Advent season. ❖



# Church Improvement

*by Barbara Vanderkay*

We wound up 2010 with a more successful Holly Days Bazaar and Holiday Craft Boutique than we had anticipated. We were pleased to find that our hard work and excellent merchandise attracted a goodly crowd of supporters, the poor economy notwithstanding. Gifts and sales receipts are still coming in, but we expect to reach a final figure of more than last year's \$17,000. Thank you to all for a wonderful job.

Just to remind you of where some of our money went in 2010, we spent over \$7,500 to remodel and update the bathrooms off the Narthex and the one off the Patio near Fellowship Hall, thus upholding our stated purpose of church improvement.

Now, in 2011, we will begin the cycle of the year with our Step-Above-Rummage Sale the second weekend of February. We are always happy, and amazed, at the quality and volume of the items given to us. We appreciate your keeping donations at home until Tuesday, January 25th (with the exception of your unwanted jewelry, which sometimes requires minor repairs or cleaning). It seems as if there is a lot of storage space for us to use, but it evapo-

rates as we absorb gifts from members who move or from heirs of those who have passed on during the year.

This year again we will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on our sale days, Thursday, February 10th, Friday, February 11th and Saturday, February 12th. Mark your calendars and date books to remind yourself, and while you are at it, also note that we will be glad to accept donations from Tuesday, January 25th, from 9 a.m. to noon, continuing on weekday and Saturday mornings through Monday, February 7th. We welcome all kinds of things, from clean clothing, linens, toys, and small working appliances to pieces of furniture of a size to fit in your car.

This mammoth undertaking brings in a good sum of money for church improvement, last year totaling over \$22,000. In order to carry this off a large group of men and women are needed beforehand for checking and pricing, during the event as sales people, guides, parking lot directors, cashiers, and sometimes as carry-out helpers. After the sale we will wait until Tuesday, February 15th to pack things up and dismantle the booths in Fellowship Hall and take down the tent in the Courtyard. Leftovers are donated to some of our usual local charities. Many hands DO make light work and those taking part enjoy the good feeling of knowing you are helping to keep our church beautiful. Please sign up soon on the sheets enclosed in the Sunday Bulletins. You are needed! If you haven't done this before, you'll be surprised at the fellowship engendered by this affair. Questions, call Regie Moorcroft at 495-5376. ❖



## Deacons' Corner: A Christmas Tree's Story

*by Richard Schaublin*

Hi, I'm a Christmas Tree. Not your typical Christmas Tree, which may brighten a home or decorate a store window. No, I'm the special tree that stood in the Narthex of our church that, with your generosity, helped make Christmas brighter for 358 children and families in our area.

The Deacons started in November by making the tags that hung on my branches. There were over 200 requests for gift cards this year and other requests for specific toys. By early December, I was surrounded by gifts and gift cards which were then distributed to the following agencies in our community: Adopt-A-Family, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, Achievement Center for Children & Families, C.R.O.S. Urban Ministries, Milagro Center and Rolling Green Elementary School.

I'm a very blessed Christmas Tree to be part of this annual tradition and share the joy of the Season. I thank you, the children and their families thank you and so do the agencies we have. See you again next year! ❖

# Stephen Ministers Lighten the Load

by David Fellows

It has been said that the only sure things in life are death and taxes. Perhaps we should add "CHANGE" to that short list of certainties. While change may take us out of our comfort zone and make us ill at ease, it is also what provides us with the opportunity to adapt and grow. This is the situation we now find ourselves as a church family.

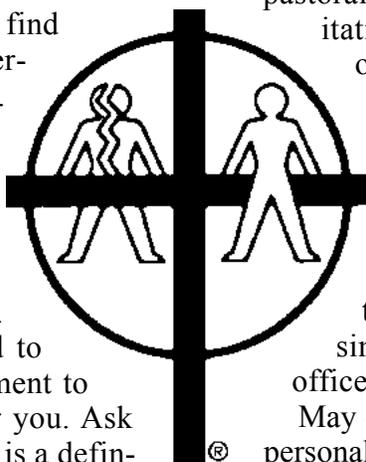
Because of our Presbyterian policies, when the Senior Pastor leaves a church, the Parish Associate leaves with him. Thus we find ourselves beginning the New Year suffering the loss of both Dr. Bush and Rev. Linda Harper, half of our ordained ministerial staff. We will lament these losses both individually and as a congregation. But this change also brings with it the opportunity for us to grow, both individually and as a congregation.

At this moment we are well advised to consider John F. Kennedy's encouragement to "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." This is a defining moment in our church's history. It is a time when each of us needs to look within and consider how we can utilize our own God-given talents to help our

church weather this difficult time. Whether by answering the call to become a Deacon, joining the choir, assisting with Sunday School classes, joining a church committee, volunteering in the church office, or simply declaring "'Here I am Lord' what can I do to help?", our individual and collective response to this challenge will define who we really are as a church family.

In an effort to ease the burden on Rev. Janklow and Rev. Garnett, the Stephen Ministers have offered to take over some of the responsibilities for pastoral care such as assisting with hospital visitations and perhaps some home visits. This offer was gratefully accepted. While our ministers are always there for you, if you are in need of spiritual support, please consider asking for a visit from a Stephen Minister. Our church is blessed to have a dedicated, trained corps of Stephen Ministers. We are there to support you in any way we can; simply contact Nancy Fine in the church office.

May each of us be led to find their own way to personally provide the extra support that will be needed by our church and its staff in the coming months. May each of us also thank God for providing this opportunity for our own spiritual growth. ❖



## A Year in Review



by Jen Buce

Children's Ministry  
Coordinator

**Ecclesiastes 8:7**

"Since no one knows the future, who can say what is to come?"

What a year 2010 was! It was a roller coaster ride of ups and downs, twist and turns, and some-

times wondering when the ride of 2010 would slow down. The year did not go as planned, but then again does it ever? A year filled with unexpected health issues and other family emergencies to deal with crammed an already filled calendar. How to handle these issues? I think most people's first instinct is to run as far as they can. I know that was my first reaction!

After gaining my senses I dealt with these issues head on. I can always hear my father behind me saying "pull yourself up by your bootstraps and keep on walking."

The calendar was filled with great things too! I experienced my first mission trip with the youth and got to know what great kids you have. I ended the year by

accepting the position of your new Children's Ministry Coordinator. I could not have asked for a better way to end the year! So far it has been an awesome time growing with the children. Each one of them has his own unique way about him and is so full of love and the willingness to grow and learn about God.

Just as the book of Ecclesiastes says, "No one knows the future," and I'm sure all of your calendars will endure all the unexpected hardships and happiness that life brings, but what I am positive about is as long as we trust in the Lord, He will guide and help us through every single moment.

I hope that all of you have a very safe and prosperous year! ❖

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH OF DELRAY BEACH

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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 Services

**9 a.m. & 11 a.m.**

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

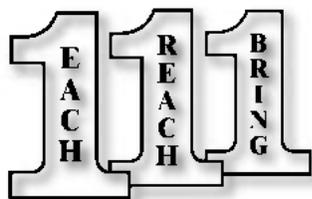
### Church School

Adult Church School 10 a.m.

Education Hour Sunday School 10 a.m.

Worship Hour Sunday School 11 a.m.

Youth Fellowship 5 p.m.



## SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 9 a.m.**

Glenda Connolly, MSW, LCSW a psychotherapist with FAU Memory and Wellness Center, Boca Raton, will present a breakfast seminar on mental health and aging.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF DELRAY BEACH

**The Annual Meeting  
will be held in the Sanctuary  
on Sunday, January 30th  
immediately following the  
11 a.m. service.**