

# The Beacon



First Presbyterian Church  
482 Tequesta Dr.,  
Tequesta, FL 33469  
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Our 51st Year

2011 Issue No. 1

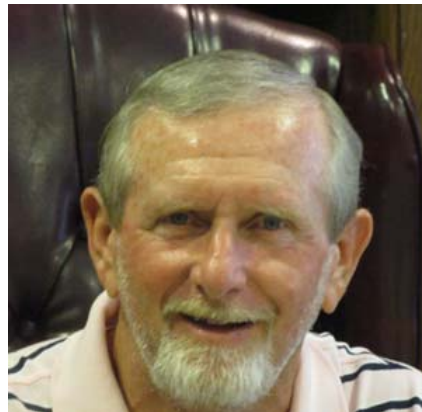
Jan.-Feb. 2011

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## From The Lighthouse Keeper

### 'Moving forward in year 51'



**Dr. C. Patrick Shaffer**  
**Senior Pastor**

After a fabulous year of celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it's time to roll up our sleeves and get on with our 51<sup>st</sup>.

In spite of 'the bridge' being closed for most of the year, it was a good year. Our worship services and fellowship events continued to be well attended even with the longer travel for many of our members. Our preschool suffered with several families electing not to do the longer daily commute. It is good to know that the preschool is again growing and prospering under the leadership of our new Director Penny Rogers.

Yes, it was a good year! It was good to look back on where we had been and the folks who brought us to where we are today. It was also good to look at our present situation and be appreciative of our members, a great church staff, and a community that is supportive and provides a wonderful place to live.

We are proud that the First Presbyterian Church of Tequesta has not only survived, but we have flourished as we provided a place where one could hear the good news proclaimed in word and deed and provided a place for fellowship activities in our community.

New Year's Day is traditionally a symbolic time for new beginnings. Two thousand and

eleven is year one of our beginning for a new 50 years. Let us begin with hope, faith and enthusiasm.

We begin 2011 with a new emphasis on missions (see last month's issue for details). We are assigning additional responsibilities to our Associate Pastor, Jeff Binder as coordinator of outreach benevolent programs. We hope to combine hands on mission programs to complement our long history of giving financial support to both local and worldwide missions. We have also created a new position of Director of Children's Ministries which reports to Jeff to continue with our emphasis on children and youth.

Of course the full understanding of the who, what, when, and where of the next 50 years is not known. We will learn as we go but we know where our focus will be.

We recently elected six new Elders, eight new Deacons and four new Junior Deacons to help provide the needed leadership as we move forward. Beverly Scanlan and Judy Finn have agreed to be our 2011 co-chairs of the Strawberry Festival to be held on March 5, 2011.

On the fellowship side, we have set a new time and date for our annual golf tournament, to be held Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 pm at the Riverbend Country Club (note the change to Saturday).

We are in the midst of our 2011 Stewardship Campaign, and we have reason to be hopeful that our members will step forward and provide the financial assistance that is required.

Of course, there is much more which may be said. My point now is simply to address the fact that we have reason to look optimistically toward our future.

Let us move forward, confident that God will guide the merging of the time, talents and treasures of each person and that our future will be full of God's grace and providence.

*Pat*

# Ministry Without Walls



**Rev. Jeff Binder**  
Associate Pastor

I've been thinking often about what ministry could look like if we were able to get beyond the stereotypical 'program ministry' that most congregations cling to. In particular, I've been contemplating this approach to my ministry with youth.

What would it look like if we were able to get beyond youth group on Sunday nights, and instead create a living, loving, spiritual community here at church?

A year ago I started volunteering with 'El Sol,' a resource center that's main priority is to safely place day laborers with those who seek day employees. I started as just another volunteer, interacting with the mostly Spanish-speaking guests, preparing meals, and learning more about the organization. What I found was a location within the materialistic culture of Palm Beach County where people of all different walks of life were gathering for conversation, education, meals, and employment. And I never expected to receive so much from these guests as I was

able to serve them food, and they were able to share their dramatic lives with me. El Sol became a location where ministry occurred. Sometimes youth and families joined me. Sometimes it was us serving them. Most times it was them serving us, as we learned the value of life that Jesus taught through the daily actions of these people.

One of the greatest challenges in youth ministry is to resist the church peer pressure to do what the other guys are doing. When we spend an evening sleeping in a box city and discussing world poverty, kids want to know when we can go to Disney World. Why go to Miami which is just down the road for a mission trip, when the church down the street is going to Honduras? I strive to find a balance between the two extremes. Yes, there can be great ministry in going to Disney World, but it must be counter-balanced with a clear message of global awareness. Ministry without walls seeks to embrace these experiences of the outside world, and to engage them through our lens of faith and discipleship. If we fail to do so, then we don't uphold our responsibility to faithfully engage our young people.

This whole approach to ministry is nothing new. Call it 'ministry without walls,' call it 'missionary church,' or 'emergent,' it's all about envisioning a church that seeks to be faithful to Christ's call to engage the world, and to *Share the Good News* beyond the traditional ecclesiastic models that are familiar in most mainline churches.

This doesn't end with youth

ministry. I'm seeking this year to incorporate this concept into every aspect of my ministry responsibilities here at Tequesta, whether it is in children ministries, worship, preaching, mission, or even the way we engage committee activity.

I want to serve a church that understands its main purpose is to be the body of Christ to its community. I want to serve a church where worship is new, imaginative, authentic, nourishing, and transformative. I want to serve a church where its members are excited to be there, its guests feel welcome and loved, and its strangers are inquisitive of just what is going on with that group of people inside its walls, outside in the parking lot, inside their homes, out in the streets, and around the world.

Peace and Justice,

*Jeff*

## **Beacon Housekeeping**

- **The deadline for submitting articles and information for the March - April 2011 edition will be Monday, February 7, 2011.**
- Carol Snyder our *Beacon* Editor has a new e-mail address. Please add this to your address book and address all *Beacon* issues to **carolsnyder1936@gmail.com**.
- The church now has a new and shorter URL address. Hopefully it will be easier to remember and use.  
**www.tequestapres.org**

Music months in review**Marlyce's music corner**

**Marlyce Pedersen**  
Music Director

The choir has been busy the last couple of months! We hope you have been blessed by the inspiring words, music and singing!

Our November was packed full. It included our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary worship service with brass, tympani and soloists; the Community Thanksgiving Service held at the Methodist Church; and the beginning of Advent.

December saw us continuing Advent with appropriate anthems and responses, and our Christmas concert on December 12 with a Nativity display and reception following the concert. It was heartening to present the beautiful Christmas story to the many who attended. For those who missed it there are still a few CD's available. Only \$10 and wonderful!

On Christmas Eve and the following Sunday, we celebrated with more joyful songs, welcoming the coming of Jesus as a baby. What a gift!

Several soloists and duetists performed during these months: Lynne Spotts, Rob Jacoby, Jake Rus, Ken

Sloan, Emily Sloan, Mary Scalf, Lyn Snyder, Jim Snyder, Shirley Anschutz and many wonderful flute solos by Jessica Esposito. On December 26, Jessica and her sister, Shannon, performed on various instruments for our Sunday worship.

**Looking ahead**

Mark your calendar for Palm Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm for the Easter concert!

I hope each of you had a blessed Christmas and I wish each of you a wonderful 2011.

Remember to keep a smile on your face and a song in your heart!

Love,

*Marlyce*



2010 Christmas concert

**Ecumenical spirit begins in hymn singing****Part III (a four part series)**

The primary reason for hymn-singing is to offer praise and prayer to God. As did the psalmist of old, we too express our deepest desires and longings. We lift our hearts in thanksgiving; we confess our sins; we call upon God. At the same time, we express our faith and witness to others--not only by **what** we sing, but the **way** we sing. For example: John Wesley was so profoundly impressed by the singing of the Moravians on the ship bound for America that he learned German in order to translate their hymns into English, thus enriching our hymnal.

Hymns are also media for teaching truth. Most people establish more of their

beliefs through hymns than on sermons, as words learned in rhyme, in conjunction with a melody, are easily remembered. Therefore **what** we sing has far-reaching consequences.

Another value in hymn singing lies in the life-sustaining quality of fine hymns through recall of meaningful phrases, stanzas, or even entire hymns.

A final value lies in the ecumenical nature of hymns. For example: churches which can never agree on doctrine or liturgy join in singing hymns from all faiths. All major hymnals contain hymns by Catholics, Unitarians, Universalists, Jews, Presbyterians, Quakers, Baptists, Episco-

pals, Lutherans, Methodists, Congregationalists and other denominational groups.

Though we may disagree on many theological points, when we sing we dwell in unity! Truly, the ecumenical spirit begins in hymn singing.

(Source: *Music and Worship in the Church* by Austin Lovelace and William Rice)

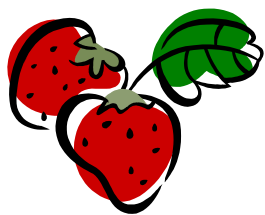


*Marlyce*

# Beverly Scanlan and Judy Finn new chairmen

## Strawberry Festival

35<sup>th</sup> Annual



Saturday  
March 5<sup>th</sup>  
9AM - 1PM

Trifles & Treasures • Food • Bakery • Jewelry & Boutique  
Children's Clothing • Toys • Books • Strawberry Shortcake  
Homemade Strawberry Jam • Fresh Strawberries  
Children's Activities • Silent Auction



Beverly Scanlan



Judy Finn

### Help Wanted

Price and pack donations in the garage Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 am.

No sign-up, just show up.

Sort and price jewelry with Christine Tuesdays 9:30 am.-12 noon.

Make jam with Strawberry Jack January 25 and 27, February 8 and 10 from 9 am.-12 noon. Bring a paring knife and wear an apron. Light lunch

### Donations Needed

Tax-deductible receipts are in the church office and garage. We only accept donations in **very good condition and easily lifted by one person**. Please, **NO** computers, printers, adult clothing or items too large to handle.

**Jewelry** - Clean out your jewelry box. We need good costume jewelry along with vintage, modern crystal and gold jewelry. We'll take your nice jewelry boxes and evening purses as well. Please deliver jewelry directly to the church office or give to Christine Von Zabern.

**Toys, games, children's clothes and shoes** (infant to size 8) plus bicycles, skateboards, strollers, car seats, high chairs and children's books.

**Books, books, books** - We want them all. Please place them in the Parlor closet.

**Baked Goods** - Homemade cookies, cakes, pies, breads, etc. may be delivered to the bakery in the Resource Room **ONLY on Thursday or Friday before the festival**. Items must be securely wrapped in small quantities and fully labeled. List any nuts clearly to allay allergy concerns. Sugar-free and strawberry items are requested.

**Household items** - in very good condition including dishes, knickknacks, linens (washed and folded), are an integral part of our Trifles and Treasures shop. Drop off boxed and bagged items at the garage on the east side of the church or at the office.

**Valuable items and gift certificates** - for the Silent Auction or Boutique should be delivered to the church office with a written description of history and value and entered into the donor log in Vivienne's office.

**Plan to stay February 28<sup>th</sup> after the service** to help move boxes and set up tables in the parlor and youth room. Can't lift? No problem. We need people to unpack the boxes in the parlor once the tables are set up. Many hands make the work go quickly.



# Come participate in educational series

**Conversations on Islam** is a working title for a two-part educational series being sponsored by the church's Christian Education Committee on two Wednesday evenings, February 16th and February 23rd. The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 7 to 8 pm. The discussion will be led by Professor Gerald Wright, Professor of Cross-Cultural Studies at Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBA)



**Dr. Gerald Wright**

**Gerald Wright**  
*B.A., East Texas Baptist University; M.Div., Th.D., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.*

Dr. Wright has taught at the seminary level for 20 years, 14 of which were

with the International Mission Board, first in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, and later in Singapore. For six years (1993-1999) he taught missions at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary,

and held the Chester Quarles Chair of Missions. Immediately prior to coming to PBA, Dr. Wright worked in the Middle East and Arabian Peninsula as an education specialist.

His writings and presentations include a paper "Communicating Christ in a Pluralistic Environment," given as the inaugural lecture of the Lenaz Faculty Lecture series for New Orleans Baptist Seminary in 1998, and later presented before the regional meeting of the Evangelical Missiological Society. He also wrote "The Purpose of Missions" in "Missiology, An Introduction to the Foundations, History, and Strategies of World Missions," (Anderson, Smith and Terry.) Dr. Wright has served as pastor of three churches, one of which he was the founding pastor. He and his wife enjoy camping together, reading, walking and drinking coffee at Starbucks.

# Christmas story comes to life

2010 Tableau - Sunday, December 19, 2010



## Profile - Cindi and Tom McMillen



**Tom and Cindi McMillen**

*By Catherine Dosa*

Cindi is our new Building and Grounds chairwoman. She was born in Cedar Grove, New Jersey, a small rural bedroom community close to Manhattan where Cindi's father worked. Her maternal grandfather was a veterinarian in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Her mother's love of animals provided Cindi and her two sisters with many dogs, cats, chickens and horses.

The only church in town was a Community Church, so the family attended that church although her fraternal grandfather was a Methodist minister. With no high school in town the family moved to Summit, New Jersey and went on to attend Lasell College in Auburndale, Massachusetts.

Cindi is an outdoors woman. She plays golf and tennis, and in between she enjoys bridge.

Tom, one of the church volunteer "band of brothers," was born in Du Bois, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Kansas State University. After his graduation he and Cindi met on a blind Date. He was soon on his way to Pensacola for Navy Flight Train-

ing and his posting in Hawaii. He and Cindi were married there 53 years ago and the first of their three daughters was born in Hawaii.

After serving in the Navy, Tom was offered a job as Sales Representative with Lederle Laboratories and they moved to Oneonta, New York, then to Poughkeepsie, New York where they lived for over 30 years.

Originally they were members of the Dutch Reformed Church, but soon found a small Presbyterian Church built in the 1800s. It was an active, community-involved church and it was there that Cindi first served as a Deacon.

Once their girls were in school full time, Cindi started a career in real estate, an "exciting, interesting, 24/7 job." After 27 years Cindi decided to retire. Their three daughters, Gwen, Jill and Karen still live in the Poughkeepsie area. The McMillen's have five grandchildren, ages 10-21, and they travel back and forth for visits as often as they can.

They moved to Tequesta in 2002 and joined the church immediately. They were aware of our church because Tom's father had been a member.

Tom is an avid reader and loves to go fishing in his boat on the Loxahatchee River and on occasion with friends out in the ocean. They both participate in the delivery of "Meals on Wheels" for our church.

As a former Deacon, Cindi is serving her first term as an Elder, chairing The Buildings and Grounds committee. This is a perfect spot for her with all of her years as a realtor. She looks at everything with the eye of an experienced realtor.



*"This past year I've been away in a dark and silent place. One morning recently I woke up to a particularly brilliant dawn sun in my face, reading the Beacon. It was a true awakening. ...So, here I am. It is my joy to be here with you again. Back among everyone, hearing the choir, discovering my life again, and gathering my wits together to write a simple profile on our beautiful Cindi McMillen, of the shiny wavy white hair, and her husband Tom, the Navy Pilot and Navigator."*

*-Catherine Dosa*

## New books in church library

Barbara Holton reports that ten new books have been added to the library, located in the Harrington Parlor. These books are for loan and need to be returned so they may be checked out by others..

The book titles are:

- *Our Kind of Traitor* by John Le Carre.
- *The Confession* by John Grisham.
- *A Secret Kept* by Tatiana de Rosnay.
- *The Fall of Giants* by Ken Follett.
- *In the Company of Others* by Jan Karon.
- *Safe Haven* by Nicholas Sparkes (Large Print).
- *The Wife's Tale* by Lori Larsens.
- *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson.
- *The Girl who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* by Stieg Larsson.

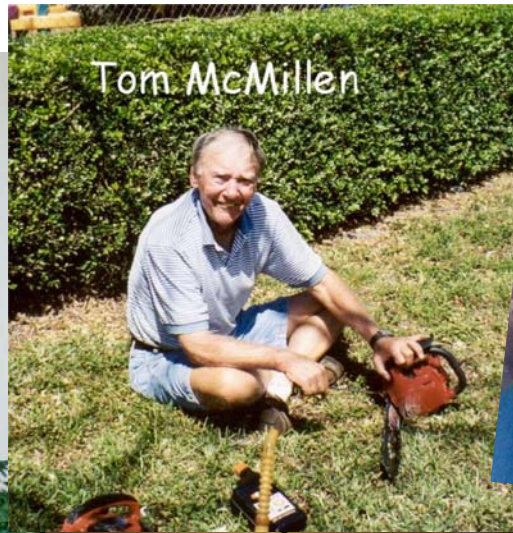
Angels behind the scene

'We few, we happy few, we band of brothers'

By Catherine Power Dosa



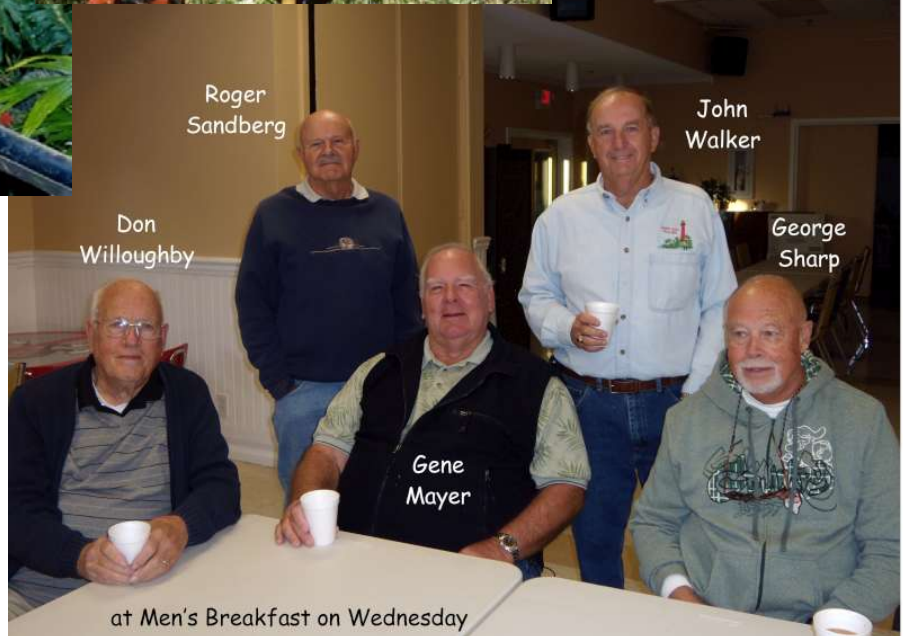
Cindi McMillen



Tom McMillen



Don Reibel



Roger Sandberg

John Walker

Don Willoughby

George Sharp

Gene Mayer

at Men's Breakfast on Wednesday



Ron Bock

We have among us an extraordinary group of volunteer workers who save our church thousands of dollars every year. All are retired though their wives might disagree. Each has brought special skills into play. Combined they keep the church as beautiful as it is.

These eight men and one woman meet once a month and plan their attack on degradation, rust, and failing electricity. As well as newly needed electricity, carpentry, shrub and flower planting. Pooling their other skills, they decide the priorities and then plan out their work.

I know that Gene Mayer and Don Willoughby are here every day. Ron Bock and Roger Sandberg are both crack carpenters. Don Reibel, John Walker, and George Sharp combined with Tom McMillen, are the all-

around guys and Cindi McMillen with her real estate skill fills the group in with the special eye of an artist and does the planting of shrubs and flowers.

Can you imagine what the cost would be to hire workers to do these chores? Plumbing and painting alone would cost a fortune. Add to these skills auto mechanics and moving and hauling.

Some of the major projects are: The school windows are replaced and classrooms renovated. When the new carpet was installed, pews were removed and reinstalled. Fellowship hall was painted. Wains coating was installed. Ceiling replaced and new lights installed. George Sharp and Don Willoughby were critical in the installation of the sound system, overhead projector, and the PA system in the Fellowship hall.

Installation of new light fixtures and bulbs for energy efficiency, using Don Willoughby's expertise. The sprinkler system is a constant maintenance issue.

I admire these guys, they are a special group. This is not all though – they also have a deep and abiding respect and affection for each other. They sometimes go out for a bit of lunch on Cypress Street and they eat breakfast with the men on Wednesday mornings.

**How can we thank them?** There are letters on your desk and cards in the pews. These envelopes are how we say thank you.



# The 50th Anniversary celebration Sunday

Church Service and Celebration  
Dinner on Sunday, November 21,

Dr. C. Patrick  
Shaffer

Dr. David  
Thomas



Ellen Harrington, wife  
of former pastor Tom  
Harrington with Judie  
Wood



L-R Bill Watkins, Te-  
questa Mayor Pat Watkins,  
Connie Shaffer, Lucky Ar-  
nold from First Pres. PBG  
representing Presbytery,  
Penny Arnold and Dr.  
Shaffer



Michael Barry, Chair of 50th Anniv.  
Comm.



Rosemarie Von  
Zabern, Vice  
Chair of 50th An-  
niv. Comm.



Some of the more than 160 people who  
attended the 50th Anniversary Celebra-  
tion Dinner



Tequesta Mayor Pat Watkins with  
husband Bill and Town Council-  
man Calvin Turnquest



## Women focus on Bible, business and lunch

### Meet at the Waterford on January, 10

#G109, 603 Universe Blvd., Juno Beach

Beverly Reid will host the Bible study and Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC) meeting in her apartment with lunch served in the Waterford dining room. Let Bev know if you'd like to share a ride with someone from Tequesta.

**10:00 am. Women's Bible Study** from the 2010-2011 Horizons Bible Study, *Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today - Lesson 4*. The workbook (\$8) is available in the church office or at the class.

**11:10 am. Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC) business meeting.** We'll hear about the first Sunday of our No-Bake Sale, hear feedback about the Nativity display and make plans to celebrate the Gifts of Women in March.

**12:30 pm. The Ladies' Lunch Bunch** dines in Waterford's dining room. If you are not a resident, bring \$14 to give Bev Reid who will be billed for all non-resident meals. Please call Bev (625-1486) to confirm your attendance.

### Valentine's Day meeting on February 14

in the Harrington Parlor

**10:00 am. Women's Bible Study - Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today - lesson 5.**

**11:10 am. PWC business meeting.** All women are invited to help support the mission of the church. We welcome new faces and new ideas as we review the success of the No-Bake Sale, plan for the upcoming Presbyterian Women's Retreat in Delray Beach on April 16<sup>th</sup> and finalize plans to celebrate the Gifts of Women in March.

**12:30 pm. The Ladies' Lunch Bunch** will enjoy a Valentine's luncheon in the Harrington Parlor. Cost will be \$7 per person. Check the Sunday bulletin for details.

## Feed your soul at 'No-Bake' sale on Jan. 9 and 16

To kick-start your New Year's weight loss resolution, the Presbyterian Women will hold their annual No-Bake Sale in the courtyard for two Sundays in January. Simply drop a donation into the collection bowl as you admire the photos of baked goods and leave church with no calories, no guilt and a great feeling inside

All donations directly benefit the West Jupiter Community Center, the north county food bank on Indiantown Road, and our church's newest mission, Christians Reaching Out to Society (CROS), which operates food pantries in Riviera Beach, Lake Worth, Delray Beach and Indiantown. The holidays are over. The cupboards now bare. Please give generously. Checks should be payable to "First Presbyterian Church" with "No-Bake Sale" noted to identify the purpose of your tax-deductible donation.

### *Thank you from the Presbyterian Women*



PWC says, "Thank you," to all who purchased our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cookbooks. They were well received and sold quickly. Please visit the advertisers' pages in the back of the book and let them know you saw their ad in your cookbook. Their support paid for half the cost of the cookbook printing, giving us over \$2,000 profit. We donated \$250 toward the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.



We also give thanks to those who shared their **Nativity scenes** as part of the Christmas concert. The Men's Breakfast group prepared and donated coffee for the event. Please let us know if this is something we should continue. Thank you

# Presbyterian women of our synod contribute \$4,024 to Haitian relief

Tequesta PWC's Moderator Kenly Drummond and Secretary Jane Speak were among 425 women at the Synod of South Atlantic's triennial gathering at St. Simons Island, Georgia in October. They strolled amid Spanish moss-covered oaks and magnolias at the Methodist conference center, Epworth by the Sea, and were filled with the peace of this paradise on the Georgia coast.

The Gathering provided an opportunity to worship, learn, fellow-

ship, grow spiritually and make new friends.

The women gave \$4,024 for Haiti Creations of Hope, which enables people to have income-producing businesses, and Villa International, a home for international visitors to the Atlanta area, most of whom work with the Centers for Disease Control or Emory Hospital.



**Kenly Drummond and Jane Speak at Plenary Session**

# You never know what will happen at the Wednesday morning men's breakfast.



First of all, men are invited to join us for the Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday at 7:30 am.

No, you may not know what will happen except we always get a good meal and have a lively discussion or special presentation.

On Wednesday, December 15th, we had an unexpected surprise when Gene Mayer brought David Webb to breakfast. Many of you were in worship on December 12th to hear David's family present their story in lieu of a sermon. At the men's breakfast, David

shared more details of his experiences in South Africa and the men had many good questions for him.

There was more discussion than I could capture in this brief report, but one thing stuck in my mind. David was responding to questions about building and maintaining self-esteem in South African orphans. His response was more than just for orphans in South Africa. I wish we could have had some younger parents there to take part in this discussion.

David said that you could always find reason to criticize and admonish kids for things they do, but the real challenge is to build them up and not just criticize and tear them down. He described his "rule of sevens". He said you need to give seven positive comments for every negative one. He says it isn't easy and you have to work at it but it does work! For positive comments, he sometimes resorts to things like "Don't you look lovely today" for a girl. To a boy he might say "Boy, you sure look strong today."

Try this with your children and grandchildren. You really have to think about it and work at it, but what could be more important than building self esteem in our young people. ...by Jim Scalf...



# The Session reports

The Session met on December 13 and conducted the following church business.

- Session approved a Safe Church Policy and Disclosure form to be submitted to our church by employees and authorized volunteers.
- Session approved a motion to send the choir a letter of thanks and appreciation for their excellent Christmas concert and continued dedication to providing inspirational

music during the Sunday morning worship services.

- Session reviewed the proposed calendar for nominating and electing new officers.
- Deacon representative Lynn Wiedman reported that the deacons would have a Meet Your Deacon luncheon in March.
- Special business included a report from Dick Anschutz about the December Presbytery meeting in Palm City, and Dr. Shaffer announced that

Beverly Scanlan and Judy Finn would co-chair the 2011 Strawberry Festival.



**Elder Marilyn Mote**  
Clerk of Session

## Deacon 'Doings'

After Deacon moderator, Katie Davis, concluded the deacon agenda at the last meeting, Rev. Jeff Binder gave us a printed sheet on the Essence of The Deacons as stated by Joan S. Gray and Joyce C. Tucker, in "Presbyterian Polity for Church Officers" 2nd ed. published in 1990.

This written offering provided by Rev. Jeff provides "food for thought" and clarity of the Deacons role in church polity. "Deacons are ordained (set into an ordered pattern of church life) for the purpose of 'ministering' to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. Any other functions deacons serve may be extremely valuable, but they are secondary to the function of service.

The form of service emphasized by deacons will differ according to place and situa-

tions. Some churches may focus a large portion of their service on meeting special needs of persons with a particular disability. The deacons of one church may concentrate on enabling the elderly of their community to experience fuller days, utilizing and sharing their special gifts. Another church's deacons may choose to operate a night shelter for the homeless of a community. The ways of fulfilling the specific responsibility of deacons do seem endless.

Although the chapter of the book states it is the responsibility of the session to oversee and lead in all aspects of the church's life, it also states this is 'not so with the deacons.' "They have the advantage of a limited responsibility, with the freedom to concentrate on one task. A church (The Session) can choose to give to a board of deacons no other duty than re-

lieving human need. A church (The Session) can turn the board of deacons loose to learn, to act, to try and try again, as it searches for the most effective ways of fulfilling its ministry of compassion."

"Electing and ordaining persons to the office of deacon is the way the church seeks to assure in the ordering of its corporate life that the ministry of compassion is never overlooked."



**Katie Davis**  
Deacon Moderator

## Sunday School had active Christmas season



**Kim Cario**  
Sunday School Superintendent

The Sunday School children, Pre-K through 5th grade, participated in the Christmas Joy Offering program. They collected money in their small boxes and brought the boxes on Sunday, December 19 to be included in the congregations' offerings.

The children also participated in the Christmas Tableau on December 19, dressed as angels and singing. They also sang two songs at the Family Christmas Service at 7:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

The year 2010 was an "awesome" Sunday School year, according to Kim Cario, Sunday School Superintendent. "I would like to thank all of the children, parents and teachers for making it so. Let's keep it going in the New Year."

Have a Happy New Year!

*Kim*

## Preschool Celebrates the Holidays



All of our preschool families enjoyed the Thanksgiving potluck feast and our **first** annual Christmas program was a rousing success. The church was packed with the children's families and

people lined the side walls and were in the center aisle, all with cameras in hand. Each age group sang Christmas carols separately. Then the children joined together to sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. Afterwards, cookies, eggnog and punch were served. We send a special "thank you," to Bill Dennis for being Santa Claus at our two Christmas parties this year and in years past.

With bridge closures finally behind us, we look forward to preregistration for the 2011-2012 school year. In-house family registration begins January 14<sup>th</sup>, and public registration opens the first week of February.



**Penny Rogers**  
Preschool Director

*In Him, Penny*

## Youth to attend Cedarkirk

Each year several children and youth travel across the state to Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center located in Lithia, Florida. This is a year round camp and conference center owned by the presbyteries of Tampa Bay and Peace River, located on the Alafia River within 170 acres of woodlands, wetlands, and uplands.

Cedarkirk is dedicated to providing an opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth in a natural environment. This year our youth will once again spend some time on the camp grounds with our High School Winter Retreat on Jan. 15-17 and our Middle School Winter Retreat on Mar. 11-13. Here we will continue to enjoy canning, climbing, worship, and time set away to intentionally be with God in a beautiful natural setting.

## Changes in confirmation classes

Confirmation is now offered to all grades eight and up who wish to go deeper in their understanding of faith and Christian identity. We realize that this program has traditionally been part of the youth's sixth and seventh grade years. However, in order to instill deeper reflection and experience for this program and its participants, we feel it's best to offer it to those a little older.

This year's program will begin on Sunday, Jan. 23, and culminate with a celebration on Palm Sunday, April 17. The program will consist of multimedia presentations and learning, sharing in this journey with an adult 'mentor,' discussions, Bible study, church visits, and even a Confirmation Retreat at Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center. Sign up with Jeff as soon as possible to be part of this exciting experience!

Mission Report**Kenya minister sends thanks****By Ginny Willoughby**

*For several years our church has been involved with a minister who operates a school and residence for street children in Kenya.*

*His letters almost read like an epistle from Paul. The following is*

*the latest letter we received in October.*

Dear Colleagues in the Lord's service,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who demonstrated His love and servanthood during His earthly ministry. I am writing to acknowledge receipt from your church to support our ministry. We are sincerely thankful to you for your continued generous support. The gift speaks to us in a special way and we are encouraged to know that even when we know we are going uphill, we have Christian brothers and sisters who are backing us up and encourage us to

go forward, even when conditions are hard.

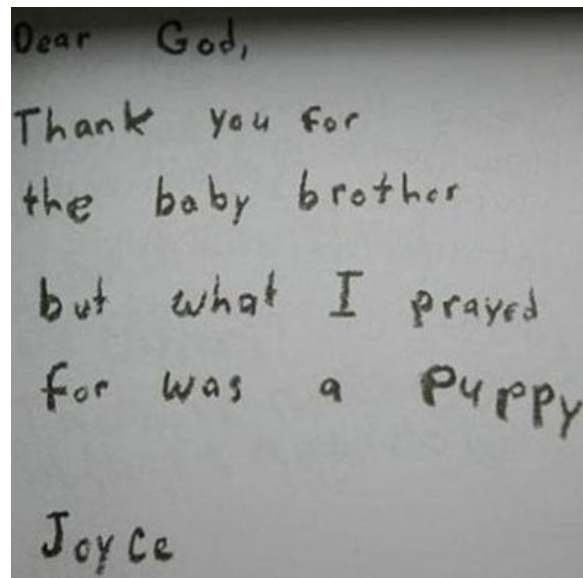
Please thank your committee or the body concerned who express their Christian love by supporting us. I know you do this in obedience to the great commission and it is my prayer that the Lord may bless you all as you share your love with all those who are near and far. It is my prayer that the good Lord who has called us Christians to be his servants in various places and countries may continue to bless you as you think of others, for we are blessed to make others blessed.

*Yours in Christ's service,  
Very Reverend Bernard Muindi*

**Glimpses of spirit****Food for thought for the new year...**

*This New Year, mend a quarrel.  
Seek out a forgotten friend.  
Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust.  
Write a Love letter.  
Share some treasure. Give a soft answer.  
Encourage youth.  
Manifest your loyalty in word and deed.  
Keep a promise. Find the time.  
Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen.  
Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand.  
Flout envy. Examine your demands on others.  
Think first of someone else.  
Appreciate. Be kind, be gentle.  
Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve confidence.  
Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency.  
Express your gratitude. Welcome a stranger.  
Gladden the heart of a child.  
Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.*

*Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once again.*



*This column is a space for church members to share with others spiritually oriented expressions, quotes, words that touch the spirit, adding meaning to their daily lives and loves. (Original authors are not acknowledged)*

# The Beacon spotlights...



Did you know that the lovely Nativity Scene which graces the altar every Christmas was donated by church members **Carol Taylor** and **Joyce Sykes**?



And that **Norma Bock** put her magic touch on the crèche scene by hand making the Palms, which flow gently behind the Bible figures.



Carolyn and David Webb and five of their children were the focus of the worship service on Sunday, December 12.

The Webbs are the founders and directors of **Baby Haven**, a missionary program in Johannesburg, South Africa, directed toward helping unwanted children who have been abandoned or orphaned, and would die without help.

Each of their children shared their experience of living at Baby Haven. After the program, the missionary family gave a slide presentation in the Harrington parlor of their work, answering questions from the many members gathered to hear their story.



In fact, the Webbs shared with the congregation that they recently approached the Joburg court to gain custody with a view to adopt Gabriel, the 3 year old, who was removed from extreme abuse and neglect, and came to live with them at the age of 10 months. Gabriel is the little boy in Carolyn's arms.



Dr. Shaffer talks with David and Carolyn at the reception in the Harrington Parlor following the worship service.

Our church has been a sponsor of this missionary effort for several years and we are pleased and proud of the work they do, and of our contribution to further their compassionate cause. **(Beacon spotlights continues on next page)**

*This is a column about church chatter around the pews of our spiritual home. We encourage our readers to keep their eyes and ears open for the news tidbits about our membership, or submit their own, and pass it on to us, as long as it is permitted by the doer and printable.*

Beacon Spotlights continued

Hanging of the Greens




The tree was being decorated



Young people were making decorations



And getting ready for the important thing: 



Happy Birthday !!!



January

February

- Jeanette Beyer Jan 1
- Keira O'Neill Jan 3
- Emily Overfield Jan 3
- Rion Hamelin Jan 4
- Cassie Lofquist Jan 5
- Pat Cornwell Jan 6
- Freddy Brandenburg Jan 7
- Brenna O'Neill Jan 7
- Sasha Melendy Jan 8
- Bill Morrison Jan 10
- Tim Palmer Jan 13
- Doris Cline Jan 14
- Allen Parrish Jan 14
- Mary Streit Jan 14
- Gail Babington Jan 15
- Paul Kindschi Jan 17
- Mary Hudson Jan 18
- Al Dowrick Jan 20
- Galen Rowe Jan 20
- Elise Overfield Jan 21
- Emil Conti Jr. Jan 24
- Elsie Widing Jan 25
- Bailey Rigsby Jan 26
- Regina Young Jan 26
- Luke Brandenburg Jan 28
- Ronald Fenaughty Jan 28
- Liani Trevino Jan 28
- Barbara Holton Jan 29

- Dennis Plante Feb 4
- Francesca Choy Feb 5
- Patti Drolet Feb 6
- Zula Soaves Feb 6
- Hanne Morrison Feb 11
- Bill Barry III Feb 12
- Kevin Campbell Feb 13
- Richard Carlson Feb 14
- Polly Jacoby Feb 14
- Aliza McTernan Feb 14
- Ann Petersen Feb 14
- Mary Carlson Feb 15
- Zachary Parker Feb 15
- Judy Campbell Feb 18
- Jill Esposito Feb 18
- Mary Scalf Feb 18
- Carol McGregor Feb 19
- Pat Corley Feb 20
- Alex Trevino Feb 20
- Melissa Plante Feb 21
- Betty Davidson Feb 22
- Owen Eagen Feb 22
- Lisa Schuster Feb 23
- Tom Hudson Jr. Feb 25
- John McGregor Feb 25
- Lyn Snyder Feb 25
- Jarrett Campbell Feb 26





# The Beacon

Jan.-Feb. 2011

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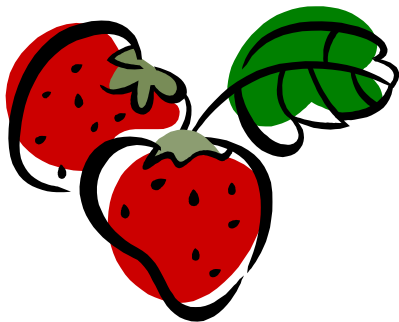
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## Strawberry 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival



**Saturday  
March 5<sup>th</sup>  
9AM - 1PM**

### First Presbyterian Church

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