



The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA

APRIL 2011



Maundy Thursday:

† *7pm Communion Service*

Good Friday:

† *12pm Communion Service*

Easter Sunday:

† *7:30am Sunrise Service*

† *9am New Beginnings
Worship*

† *10:30am Traditional
Worship*

† *6pm Prayer Service*

He has given us a **new birth** into a living hope
through the **resurrection of Jesus Christ**
from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV

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MOCK'S MUSINGS

Rev. Stephen A. Mock, Pastor

“With your help we believe we can grow our church to God’s glory.”

Friends, last month I invited you to join in our Miracle Sunday drive to pay off our mortgage and God blessed us through your generosity in the amount of \$28,226.00. We know more gifts are coming and feel confident that God will help us reach our goal. Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication to God’s church. The Session continues to work to address the financial issues we are facing, but let me share with you what God is leading us to do to help move us to becoming fiscally sound once again.

This past Sunday (March 23), your elders and deacons gathered to pray, share and discuss plans for this year and beyond. It was a great meeting and you would have been so proud of your servants. We focused on what we consider is our greatest need – more members.

First, we shared what we liked about our church and we decided that those would become talking points about our church that we could share with others. We decided to create a brochure with all these in it so we can give them to visitors and friends. Here are the talking points about what we feel makes First a special place: friendly; Bible preaching; music ministries; good food and fellowship; smaller, family-feel; two different worship services; caring family; Lunch 'n Learns; modern facility; Bible studies; small groups; Stephen Ministry; Bereavement Ministry; Presbyterian Women; R.O.M.E.O.S.; prayer meeting; mission program; and a parish nurse. I’m sure you could think of others and if you do, please contact me because we want to know everything good about God’s church here at First and include them as well. Our hope is that this will make it easier for us to invite others to our church.



Pastor Steve

Then we talked about how we can reach out into the community to let them know what a wonderful home First is. We decided to improve our Yellow Pages ad and to try advertising with local homeowners’ associations and parks where possible. We plan to try to contact new residents in our and the surrounding zip codes and point them to our website, which we will improve to make it possible for them to either watch, live or taped, one of our worship services streaming over the Internet. We are exploring getting our choir and praise team out into the community to do concerts, exposing them to how good our music ministries are. We also decided that having a Christmas Card in Gilchrist Park, like we had before, was another way to let the community know we’re here. In fact, we already have a team preparing to work on it. And finally, we want to ask each of you to invite others, friends or neighbors or strangers, to visit our church, using the brochure mentioned as a source of what to say. Studies have shown that about 85% of people join a church because a friend or person invited them to come. With your help, we believe we can grow our church to God’s glory.

After talking about reaching out, we discussed how we welcome visitors to our family. We realized that even though we think we do a good job of welcoming visitors, we could do a better job. Some visitors have felt unwelcomed (not many), but if one feels that way, we’ve dropped the ball. So we discussed trying to identify visitors using nametags and having nametags for all members and friends of our church. We liked the latter more than the first because it would still enable us to identify visitors without causing them to stand out. We decided to go back to a plan that was in place when I first arrived in 2003 of seeking out visitors each Sunday.

Continued on page 3: Mock’s Musings

We're calling it Dr. Bob's Plan since Dr. Bob Kiskaddon came up with it years ago. The plan is to divide the sanctuary into quarters and have a person designated to look for visitors in that section. After the service, that person would greet the visitor(s), welcoming them to the church and inviting them to the fellowship time following the service. This worked well in the past and many of you became members because of someone greeting you like this. We also talked that during the greeting time at each service, all of us can be more intentional in seeking out visitors or someone we don't know to welcome them in Christ's name. It's so easy for us to greet those we know, but it's even more important to greet those we don't, especially if they are visiting. Many of you go out to breakfast or lunch after the services and we thought how nice it would be to invite visitors to join you. So we are encouraging those who do this to think about asking visitors to come with them to share a meal together. We talked about maybe having a fellowship time between services and that is being considered. Finally we talked about a need to have a better, more intentional Welcome Center, manned by members who would greet visitors arriving for worship and have information to share with them. We thought having a portable greeting stand might be a way to do this and we also realized that if we were going to do this, that we would need a Welcoming Team to organize and operate it.

As you can see, it was a very productive and exciting meeting. We ended our time together with the

setting of our main goal for the rest of 2011 – to bring in 15 new families by the end of the year. Note, this is 15 families, not members. We define a family as a single person, married couple, single with children and married with children, so our membership might actually grow by 20 to 30. This is a great goal. This is a challenging goal. We believe by God's grace and your help that we can succeed and reach this goal. The Session has begun working on these ideas and making plans to do this.

We all believe God has blessed us and called us to share His love with others. We all love God's church here at First and want to see it grow and continue to serve others in Christ's name. Our prayer is, and we ask it to be your prayer, that God will help us exceed our goal.

I thank God for the privilege I have to work alongside such leaders. Together we can build God's church here in Punta Gorda to the glory of God and the blessings of all.

In Christ,

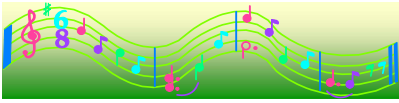
Steve

SESSION NOTES

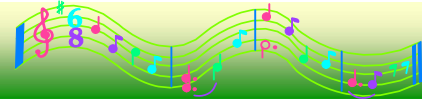
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH 21ST SESSION

- Opened meeting with prayer and the reading of Psalm 27.
- Approved motion to remove Bruce Hughes from active membership role per a letter of request by him as he has moved to St. Petersburg, Fl.
- After discussion the financial report was approved. Session also approved the finance committee's recommendations for further budget cuts. Copies of the new revised budget will be made available in the near future.
- Discussion was made on the need to have a designated Handicap Seating Area in the sanctuary. This will be explored.
- Reviewed the 2011 plans and goals that were set at the elder/deacon meeting held on March 20, 2011.
- Finance Committee had a representative from Charlotte Community Bank, Eric DeYoung, come and discuss some of our options on the payoff of the mortgage and also to answer any questions we had.
- Approved motion to elect Gail Thornton and Dianne Sizemore as delegates to the May 26th Presbytery Meeting. Phyllis was also elected as an alternate.
- Discussed the need for a Welcome Station on Sunday mornings for both services. Session thought it was a good idea and is looking for someone to organize it.

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session



MUSIC NOTES



“Joyful Worship”

The Bible is filled with commands to worship God joyfully. Some examples are:
Ps. 47:1 Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.
Ps. 32:11 Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!
Ps. 66:1-2 Shout with joy to God, all the earth! ² Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!
Psalm 150 ¹ Praise the Lord, Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. ² Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. ³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, ⁴ praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, ⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. ⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

Do you see all the words to describe worship: clapping, shouting, cries of joy, singing, trumpets, harps, lyres, tambourines, strings, flutes, cymbals and dancing! Worship should be joyful. Are we glad that we are in His presence? Are we happy to be worshipping our God?

When we belong to Him we have nothing to fear. No matter what the crisis of our life we can rejoice because we know that we are His. He has promised that nothing will separate us from His love. He has promised He would never leave us. He has promised that all things will work for good in our lives.

So let us be joyful in our worship of Him. Let us be glad to rejoice in Him. Let us be a “Joyful Worshiper” and sing His praises every day of our lives.

For Him!

EASTER LILIES



We will be decorating the church with Easter lilies again this year. If you would like to donate one in remembrance or honor of a loved one, please use the offering envelopes on the back table of the sanctuary, or call the church office. Suggested donation is \$7 for each lily. A special insert will be published so we need your envelope by April 18th.

DO YOU HAVE THE GIFT OF HOSPITALITY????

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A MINISTRY TO USE YOUR GIFT????

OR ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BE OF SERVICE OR INVOLVED IN MINISTRY?

If you answered yes to these questions, we have the ideal ministry for you. One of our needs for 2011 is to find someone or a couple who would be willing to plan and organize a Welcome Station in the hall on Sunday mornings. This Station would have someone at it to answer questions and hand out flyers about the church to our first time visitors. We encourage our full time and winter resident members and friends to pray about this and see if it is the kind of ministry our Lord would have you do in service to Him here at FPC.

HE DID IT FOR ME

In the upper room they gathered for the meal,
An important story He began to reveal,
It is time for the Son of Man to die,
One will betray, another will deny,
For thirty silver coins, the ransom will be,
Salvation unfolding how He did it for me.

In the dark of the night as He knelt to pray,
His Father above heard His Son say,
"The thought of dying does not trouble Me within;
It's being separated from You by each man's sin,
But if this cup cannot be lifted by Thee,
Thy will be done." And He did it for me!

The soldiers came to take Him away to His end,
When Judas kissed Jesus, He still called him friend.
They took Him to the house of Caiaphas, the priest,
Had a mock trial, then to Pilate was released.
They stripped Him of His clothing, He stood quietly,
It was not easy ... but He did it for me.

They whipped Him and scorned Him all through the night,
Brought Him before the mob in the early morning light.
Crucify Him, crucify Him, the shouting was loud,
Release to us Barabbas, demanded the crowd.
Pilate washed his hands, no power had he,
Power from above was how He did it for me.

The blood from the thorns of the crown, on His brow,
The weight of the cross that made His knees bow.
Nails that were driven through His hands and His feet,
He looked down upon them, forgiveness so sweet.
He hung between thieves on the hill of Calvary,
The blood that was shed ... He did it for me!

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, thank You for suffering
so we may have eternal life and say
"He Did it for Me!" Amen!

- Lorraine Sisson



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women (PW) will meet on Saturday, April 9th at 11:00am with a salad luncheon to follow. All women of the church are invited. Bring a salad to share with the group. Rolls and dessert will be furnished by the PW board.

Come see the "Blessing Basket" our PW is contributing to Habitat for their housewarmings. The basket includes a tag indicating it is a gift from First Presbyterian Women's Group. The following note is included with the basket:



We want to give you flowers so your house may always know beauty.
Bread so your house may never know hunger.
Salt so it may always have flavor.
A candle so the house will never know darkness.
And sugar so that life will always be sweet.

Chrismon Project

The Presbyterian Women's Chrismon project for our Christmas tree is progressing but we need more HANDS and BEADS. If you're a "Yard Sale" or "Flea Market" fan, please look for gold or pearl beaded jewelry of various sizes for us to re-purpose into our beautiful Chrismons. Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to our Lord's purity and perfection; gold, to His majesty and glory. Making Chrismons can be an act of worship of our Lord and God. Let it be so for you.



Come join us on **Wednesday, April 6th and 20th, at 10am** and we'll be glad to help you make one for our tree. You can do it!

Making Chrismons



Diane Truby



Millie Drum



Joan Hoffman

A MESSAGE FROM THE BEREAVEMENT TEAM

How do we achieve happiness in an unhappy world that practices so much pessimism, doom and gloom? A gerontologist once told me that happy people seem to live longer because they find good things to focus on in this life. They seem to realize they have so much more to do for the Lord. The joy of the Lord should be the focus of any Christian church. Love, joy, peace and goodness are the mantra by which we strive to live and it works. Happiness is anger-free; is forgetful of the past; realizes it is not perfect; and avoids sin, while being assertive, not aggressive.

Happiness evolves from what we think; feels blessed by being saved and forgiven by Christ's death on the cross; and is water against the oil of sin. It is merciful to others and acts as a peacemaker, while seeking the Kingdom of Heaven.

Happiness is wise and knows that choices have consequences, and if it is lost, it usually is due to a person who has given it up for worry, self centered pursuits and other choices that cause emotional discomfort that, in turn, breeds unhappiness.

A fellow therapist, who was a family therapist, told me years ago that marriage absorbs happiness and does not create it. Happiness is not free and must be cultivated continuously throughout life. Would it not be wonderful if after each of our earthly memorials someone would say of us, "He/she was such a happy person and fun to be with." The implications of that statement would be so wonderful and out-reaching.

Psalm 68:3: But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God; yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

Hold on to Christ, be happy.

Joy Kiser



Dear friends,

Thank you for the many prayers, cards and get-well wishes during my recent hospitalization. The prayer shawl knitted by Jan Jacoby was especially comforting. It's good to be back at work again.

*Your sister in Christ,
Elizabeth Dunn*

To our dear friends at First Presbyterian,

Thank you so much for the gift of flowers, and especially, the prayer shawl knitted by Janet McLemore. Everyone who sees it remarks about its beauty.

We hope to be back in church on a regular basis soon.

*Sincerely,
Richard & Doris Lindsey*

A heartfelt thank you to all of you for your prayers, cards, support, and acts of kindness during my recent loss. Many of you have reached out to me since my mom's passing and I truly appreciate it.

*Sincerely,
Gayle Rosa*

Many thanks for all the prayers, cards, and good wishes; and a special thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl.

Betty Stroth

THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear....Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Matthew 6:25, 27

It is said that whatever is good for your heart is good for your brain! We just finished a Lunch 'n Learn about saving your memory and here is some information:

- **Decrease Stress** — This is huge! Stress and depression changes your brain and sets you up for memory problems. Write your worries in a prayer journal each morning and give them to God, then STOP the negative thoughts until you return to your journal the next day.
- **Exercise** — This keeps oxygen rich nutrients flowing to the brain. We all know walking is good for us, as is any exercise that gets us off the couch. Just bouncing a ball promotes hand-eye coordination and can cut your chances of falling, as does ping pong, Tai Chi or Pilates.
- **Socialization** — It is important to share your thoughts and ideas with others. SHARED PAIN IS ONE-HALF THE PAIN! Getting out, laughing and thinking about others is very healthy!
- **Eat healthy foods** — Fruits, whole-grain cereals and other whole grain products contain high levels of antioxidants. Fruits such as apples, blueberries, nectarines and peaches contain up to 5 times more polyphenols (substances with antioxidant benefits). Avoid processed foods that last indefinitely on the store shelf or freezer, as well as artificial sweeteners and MSG.
- **Try New Brain Puzzles** — Play games that involve memory (card games), crossword puzzles, bingo, play a new instrument, cook a new dish. You can improve your memory by doing familiar things in unfamiliar ways such as brushing your teeth with your other hand, reading a story aloud, driving a familiar route in a different way, or saying the alphabet backwards. Combine two senses together to build brain connections such as listening to music while sniffing a scented candle. Take a new class at the Cultural Center or our church.
- **Volunteer** — There is so much satisfaction when you give of yourself. You meet new people, learn new information, increase endorphins in your brain and know you are making a difference in this world.
- **Pray** — We know prayer benefits body, mind and spirit. Many studies have shown longer, happier and healthier lives when we follow our Maker's guidelines for our lives (THE BIBLE).
- **Avoid Alcohol** — This is toxic to your brain cells.
- **Nutrients** — There are many supplements that decrease inflammation: Curcumin, Omega 3 fatty acids, Vitamin E, green tea, B vitamins, melatonin, Vitamin C, CoQ10. All of these should be used under a doctor's supervision.

Florida funds thirteen memory disorder clinics, one being at Lee Memorial Hospital, called Lee Memory Care - 2776 Cleveland Ave Suite 807, Ft Myers Fl 33901, phone 239-343-3366. Find out about the Healthy Brain Initiative of Southwest Florida at www.leememorial.org/healthybrainfl.

Because He LIVES!
Debbie Carney RN



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

By Craig Anderson



Barbara Klepinger

Barbara has been a part of our church for some time but is soon moving back to her old home of Stoughton, Wisconsin to be near family. She has been a blessing to us, and we are sorry she will be soon leaving us. We wish her well and pray God's blessings upon her in this transition.

Born/grew up: Eaton, Ohio.

Fond childhood memory: Playing croquet

Education: She graduated from Earlham College, a fine school founded by the Quakers in Richmond, Indiana.

Spouse/family: She and her husband, Kent, met in 1952, their first day at Earlham College. They were married in 1955 in the Earlham College Meeting House. Kent died in April of 2008. They have four children: Gretchen Burkett, Johanna Klepinger, Jill Zinke, Jonathan Klepinger — and nine grandchildren.

Vocation: Retired.

What brought you to this area? We lived aboard our boat and shopped in Punta Gorda.

Spiritual journey: Grew up in a Christian home. Was a member of the Church of the Brethren.

How did you happen to come to our church? Had been Presbyterian since 1972. I am still a member of First Presbyterian, Stoughton, Wisconsin.

Great church memory: Randy's incredible organ playing; singing in the choir.

Favorite vacation: Hunting morel mushrooms in Wisconsin & Michigan.

Service in the church: Church organist, elder, church choir.

Favorite hymn: "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind."

Book I'd recommend: Any books by D. Elton Trueblood or Tom Mullen.

Hobbies/interests: Playing bridge, reading.



Our prayers and sympathy are shared with:

† Gail Rosa and family on the passing of her mother, Virginia Halliday, on February 27th.

*"Because I live, you also will live."
John 14: 19b*

MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

ISAIAH 58 EVENT

Sponsored by the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition



On **Saturday, April 30th**, at Laishley Park in Punta Gorda from 2pm-7pm, the Homeless Coalition is having a fundraising event called ISAIAH 58. There will be fellowship, music, prayer and fun. Each church will have a booth where they can either give away or sell items.

The Mission Team has decided to be a part of this event and will need your help. We will be looking for donations of craft items to sell, with the monies going to both the Homeless Coalition and to our Mission Fund. Items may be brought to the church any time after April 1st. We would also like to have a few people to come work at the booth.

The Homeless Coalition feeds 80 to 150 people each evening. Also, a food pantry is provided for families in need every Friday from 1- 4pm (each family can make use of this one time every month). Genesis House, which is a safe house, has 58 beds and from time to time cots and cribs are added for family members. Your donations of monies helps to support all of these projects.

We hope to see you at Laishley Park on April 30th supporting our work for the Homeless Coalition, and we pray you will stay for the worship service at 6pm as we close our day.

Please remember we need craft items (they can be dropped off at the church office) to fulfill our commitment of raising money for the Homeless Coalition and our Mission Fund. For more information contact Gail Thornton 639-5510 or Dianne Sizemore 743-5637.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING APRIL 17TH, PALM SUNDAY

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is a way to share God's love with people that are experiencing need. Our gifts support disaster response (as it did when Charlie devastated our area) and refugee assistance and resettlement if you have been displaced with nowhere to go. Also, community development that helps people find safe refuge, starting new lives, and working together to strengthen families and communities. These gifts give hope to our brothers and sisters here and around the world.

The monies are divided as follows: Presbyterian Hunger Program - 36%, Self Development of People - 32%, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - 32%.

This offering shares resources and changes lives. We will dedicate our offering to ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING on **April 17th, Palm Sunday**.

HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR MISIÓN PENIEL

HYGIENE PRODUCTS for Misión Peniel will be collected the month of April. Travel size is fine and all are appreciated. Please place items in a zip lock bag and close. Here are some suggestions:

FOR MEN

- Tooth brush and toothpaste
- Wash cloth and hand towel
- Bar of soap (they like Irish Spring)
- Comb
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream or gel and after shave lotion
- Shampoo
- Kleenex
- Other things could be Tylenol, breath mints, and hankies

FOR WOMEN

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Wash cloth and hand towel
- Flowery soap or maybe Dove
- Brush and comb
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Lipstick and maybe a matching nail polish
- Kleenex
- Body lotions or hand creams
- Disposable razor and shaving cream or gel
- Other items could be Tylenol, breath mints, a travel pack of tampons. Also baby powder, creams, shampoos and soap are welcome

CEREAL FOR THE BLUE BIN

Bring your boxes of cereal to fill the Blue Bin for the families of Charlotte County. Let no child go to school without a decent breakfast. Oatmeal, Cherrios, Rice Krispies, Cap'n Crunch, Fruit Loops...You make the choice and let us fill the bin. Let no child go hungry. Thank you for your generosity.

THE LIVING CROSS

At a Session meeting on January 10, 1978, Elder Arthur Kester proposed that a "Living Cross" consisting of a wooden cross, covered with flowers brought by the congregation, be constructed for Easter Sunday. He volunteered to make this cross and it is to be a part of the program this Easter.

The following poem was used on Easter Sunday by Mrs. Vada Beebe in the dedication of the flower covered cross; the poem was written by the builder of the cross, Arthur Kester.

THE LIVING CROSS

The Living Cross is mine to claim, God offers it in Jesus name
If I but consecrate my soul, The Ten Commandments as my goal.

And as this cross, today, we build, may every heart be amply filled
With love for Jesus, since He gave His life, for yours and mine to save.

May every flower that we place upon this rugged cross's face
Transfigure it to beauty rare as though each flower wore a prayer.

For beauty that God really sees comes not from living lives of ease,
Nor decorations, though they shine, it comes from souls like yours and mine.

The Living Cross is alive today for Jesus washed our sins away
Through crucifixion on this cross that God's great love be not a loss.

This life, we must perpetuate, discard all doubts, not hesitate
To live the lives He'd have us live, our thoughts must be more positive.

If we have God in all we do, then He will watch and see us through.
Our aims must then be high and sound, our feet will be on firmer ground.

May this cross be a symbol of our daily lives and Christian love,
And on this wondrous Easter Day we bow in reverence as we pray,

Our Father



We will be presenting the Living Cross on Easter morning and are requesting flowers for it. You can bring them to the church on Easter Sunday morning between 8:30am and 10:00am.

APRIL 2011 CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders - We pray for....

The elderly, the infirm, the hospitalized, those in nursing homes, the homebound and lonely, and all those who have requested our prayerful support.

Pray for the men and women who serve our country, especially:

- *PV2 Alexander Fogg, grandson of Bob & Carol Fogg. Deployed to Afghanistan.*

Each month we remember church members and friends on a rotating basis

APRIL

- 1 Charles Sampsel
- 2 Bill & Elaine Schultz
- 3 Walter & Veralou Scott
- 4 Barbara Shinn
- 5 Dave & Ella Sifferd
- 6 Mel & Lorraine Sisson
- 7 Dianne Sizemore
- 8 Andrew & Nancy Smith
- 9 Gerald & Margie Smith
- 10 Stan & Barbara Smith
- 11 Mae Snyder

APRIL

- 12 Paul & Vicki Steffen
- 13 Craig Stephens
- 14 Charles & Connie Stickler
- 15 Terry & Annetta Stinebuck
- 16 Mary & Sarah Stones
- 17 Josh Hassler
- 18 Len & Betty Stroth
- 19 Anne Swift
- 20 Fred & Diane Tabert
- 21 Gail Thornton
- 22 Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale

APRIL

- 23 John & Diane Truby
- 24 Marietta Van Gorp
- 25 Bernie Vander Meulen
- 26 Mary Vincent
- 27 Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh
- 28 Doug & Esther Wheeler
- 29 Rich & Jan Wilkinson
- 30 Ed & Pam Williams

PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL



Mary Gilbert	3	Al Churchill	18	Cy & Marcia Ling	20
Phyllis Ehrhardt	4	Andrew Smith	20	George & Joan Hoffman	28
David Doupé	5	Carolyn Hansman	22	Jerry & Nancy Julius	29
Edwina Norton	5	Nancy Smith	23		
Jean Humphreys	9	Dick Fisher	25		
Ella Sifferd	9	Anna Hill	28		
Beverly Doupé	14	Terry Stinebuck	28		

THIS 'N THAT

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

We welcome material for our church newsletter. All contributions are subject to editing with regard to the subject matter and space requirements. Articles for the May issue of *The Messenger* are due in the church office by **Friday, April 15th**.

WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE

You are invited to join your church family in the Conference Room Sundays at 6pm. Come and share in this experience of God's people praying together.

SPONSOR SUNDAY FLOWERS

The cost to sponsor flowers is \$35. To sponsor the flowers, please sign up on the sheet in the church entrance or call the church office. If you sponsored flowers for a Sunday and would like to take them after the service, please let the church office know before the date sponsored, or stop in the kitchen after the last service and see the deacon in charge that day.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Our church music is available to you on the internet at <http://public.me.com/rpc1220>. Click on one of the folders to view Organ Music, Choir Music, or Praise Team Music and a list of the music will appear by song title. Then click on the arrow at the right of the song to download and listen. Music from the February 15th concert, *Music On a Winter's Eve*, is also available. Feel free to share with friends, family or potential members. Questions or comments may be directed to Randy Curtis at rpc1220@me.com.

R.O.M.E.O.S. BREAKFAST MEETING

R.O.M.E.O.S. (Retired Old Men Eating Out Someplace) will be meeting for breakfast at 8am at Sky View Café, Punta Gorda Airport on **Thursday, April 7th and 21st**. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

EMAIL UPDATE

Please advise the church office when you change your email address. Thank you.

COMPUTER AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE



We've set up a computer in the Conference Room for those of you who need the use of one. It has high-speed internet access and is available during office hours. We suggest you call to reserve the time before coming to use it.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FUNDRAISERS

Presbyterian Women (PW) are selling note cards as a fundraiser. There are 5 cards in a set for a cost of \$2.50. A sample & an order form are on the PW table in the Narthex.

PRICELESS TREASURES TABLE

Our "Priceless Treasures" table is set up in Fellowship Hall. Please – no clothing. You are encouraged to bring household goods and appliances in good working order, toys, general-interest books, CDs, DVDs, and decorative items. If you find a "Treasure" that you would like to take home, just put your donation in the container provided. This is an on-going Presbyterian Women fundraiser for their use in outreach projects.

LOAVES & FISHES MINISTRY



Loaves & Fishes Ministry is a great opportunity for those of us who like to cook to share a meal with a church family in need after surgery or illness. Having a familiar, friendly face at your door with cooked food when you return home from the hospital is a very loving experience for both the cook and the recipient. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please put your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet on the table in the church entrance or contact Kay Callahan.





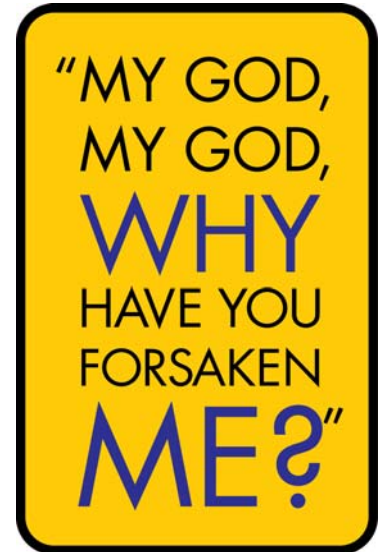
BIBLE QUIZ



Two places in the Bible, one in the Old Testament and one in the New, feature the following words: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The New Testament account is found in Matthew 27:46, when Jesus is hanging on the cross. Where are the words found in the Old Testament?

- A. 1 Kings 19:4
- B. Jeremiah 38:9
- C. Psalm 22:1
- D. Lamentations 1:20



Answer: C

Popsicle Stick Humor —

Why is a bad joke like a dull pencil?

Answer: It has no point

What does a mallard use to fix everything?

Answer: Duck tape

Perfect Attendance

The church choir director was frustrated because at least one member was missing from each Easter cantata rehearsal. At the final practice, she announced, "I wish to publicly thank the tenor for being the only choir member to attend every rehearsal."

"It's the least I could do," said the tenor, "since I won't be here for Easter."



MEET OUR OFFICERS

ELDERS

Laurel Aumend — Ministry	625-5238
Nancy Beasom — Fellowship	505-9383
Phyllis Botticelli — Fellowship	637-0445
Joe Cherny — Discipleship	575-2186
Marguerite O'Brien — Administration	639-7226
Elaine Schultz — Worship	505-8339
Gail Thornton — Mission/Clerk of Session	639-5510
Don Washabaugh — Worship	255-8616
Dave Woods — Administration	456-4876

DEACONS

Debbie Carney — Parish Nursing	637-9389
Paul Gebel — Helping Hands	637-8655
Nancy Julius — Communication	575-7491
Joy Kiser — Bereavement	575-9745
Elaine Schultz — Flowers	505-8339
Margie Smith — Prayer Shawls	833-0185
Barbara Ryan — Communion	575-8141
Kay Callahan — Loaves & Fishes	916-9252

MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



Pastor
Steve Mock
revmock@fpcpunta.org



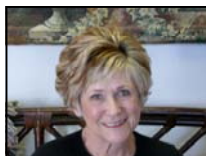
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PC(USA)



MEMBER, CONFESSING CHURCH



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH