



The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA

MAY 2011



OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE

LOVING.... GROWING.... GOING.... in JESUS!

*Loving... God and others through worship and fellowship.
Growing... in our understanding Jesus and God's purposes for us through Bible study, and developing our ministries to serve God and others.
Going... into God's world with His message of love and salvation through Jesus Christ, and with His ministries of compassion and mercy.*

SALE OF THE MARION STREET PROPERTY UPDATE

Well, as can happen with real estate sales, problems can delay the closing. On the day of closing, April 15th, the buyer was unable to close because he didn't have the funds as a result of one of his properties not closing the day before. To keep the deal alive, the buyer offered to put up more money in escrow (\$7,000 on top of the \$3,000 originally given) and then release it from escrow to the church. He then would pay the church \$1,000 per month for five months, nonrefundable, and close on October 20, 2011 with a payment of \$105,000. He has already put another \$5,000 in escrow to make those payments through October, all of it nonrefundable.



The Session, after considerable discussion, decided to accept this offer. They believed the buyer's offer was still the best offer we'd get, and the fact that he already came up with the \$12,000 promised, indicates his desire to complete the sale. They also decided to take the \$36,076 from Miracle Sunday and bequests totaling \$30,000 and pay those on the mortgage to reduce the amount of interest we would be paying up to the closing date. Again, thank you all for helping us get closer to paying off our mortgage and pray that nothing will prevent this sale from completing.

God bless,
Steve

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NOTICE:

The prayer shawl group will not meet again until October.

MOCK'S MUSINGS

Rev. Stephen A. Mock, Pastor

“Wouldn't it be nice to watch our worship services when we're away?”



Pastor Steve

Wouldn't it be nice to watch our worship services when we're away? Just imagine being able to enjoy the wonderful choir and praise team each Sunday either live or taped? Just think if you could show someone what our worship services are like.

Well, now is the time to discover how. Beginning in May we'll be streaming our worship services, both the 9am and the 10:30am live over the internet using a free service made available to us recently. It's called Justin.tv. Just copy or type the link: <http://justin.tv/fpcpuntagorda> into your address line in your browser and you'll be there. We'll be broadcasting live every Sunday morning. If you miss the live broadcast, it will still be on this website to watch for a couple weeks. Try it out and see it work. Then let your family, friends and others know about it. Invite them to check it out, too.

The main purpose for doing this is to help reach people outside the walls of this building and let them experience the wonderful music ministries of the church, see the love we have for each other and to hear God's Word proclaimed in a practical, down-to-earth fashion. It will be a great way to introduce people to our church and encourage them to visit us in person. It is also a way for our 'northern' family to stay connected.

We hope that you'll utilize this new tool to reach out to those around us and help us fulfill our vision of 'going...' into the community with Christ's love and message of salvation. Don't you just love technology?

In Christ,

Steve

SESSION NOTES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE APRIL 18TH SESSION

- Approved to accept Mel and Rose Anne Hobert as new members by letter of transfer.
- After an in depth discussion with Rachel Pfaender, church representative for selling the Marion St. property, John Bockan, realtor, Marguerite O'Brien and Sharon Cuzner, finance committee representatives, the motion was made and approved to accept the new counter offer from the buyer of the Marion St. property.
- Approved recommendation from Worship Team to go to one blended worship service from June 05, 2011 through August 28, 2011 at 10am.
- Approved motion to pay down the mortgage with funds from Miracle Sunday, McCrea and Young bequests, plus the \$10,000 earnest money.
- Art Koon, PR representative, submitted options to upgrade the phone directory ad. Motions were approved to go with the ad of \$55.50 per month.
- Approved motion to have a weekend conference presented by Ron Rand of Up Building Ministries in March of 2012. Pastor Steve to contact Ron Rand.

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session

The Price of Freedom

In the song "What Did He Die For?" Twila Paris reminds us why we observe Memorial Day – and why we worship Jesus as our Savior. The first verse tells of a 21-year-old soldier fighting for America's freedom during World War II. The second verse recalls another young man, many centuries prior, sent by his Father to win eternal freedom from sin for the entire world.

The chorus offers this challenge:

"What did he die for when he died for you and me,
Made the sacrifice so that we could all be free?
I believe we will answer each to heaven
For the way we spend a priceless liberty.
Look inside and ask the question, What did he die for?"

Memorial Day challenges us to live so as to honor the sacrifices made by members of the military. We value our freedom because of the heavy price people have paid for it. Likewise, every day we're challenged to live so as to honor Jesus' supreme sacrifice. He calls us to spend our "priceless liberty" using our blessings to bless others.



Thank You!

Just wanted to let you know how very much your thoughtfulness for the beautiful prayer shawl was appreciated.

Dawn Kaminsky (daughter of Andy & Nancy Smith)

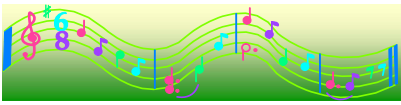
Thank you for all the prayers, cards, flowers, and food during my recent illness.

Bernie Vander Meulen

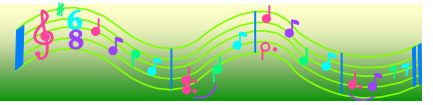
Dear friends,

Thank you for your blessings, prayers, cards, flowers, and food during my recent surgery. God is good!

Elizabeth Dunn



MUSIC NOTES



Why do we sing? Have you ever wondered why we sing in church? Why do we have musicians, pianos, organs, choirs and praise teams? Why do we put so much of our energies and resources into music and worship? I believe it is because it brings us closer to God, providing a meaningful way for us to connect with God and bring praise and honor to Him. It allows us to corporately praise our Creator.

Music also sells. Every commercial we see on TV has music in the background, carefully selected to create a mood or an emotion. We also create moods and emotions in our worship with the variety of songs that we sing. The beginning of our worship is generally more upbeat with up tempo music and hymns or praise songs showing adoration and praise. Prayer Responses and Communion music are just the opposite, creating a mood of reverence and reflection. We sing songs that praise God and thank Him for the love He has shown us. We sing a variety of songs creating different emotions in us that connects us to God.

Psalm 98 tells us to “Sing to the Lord a new song!” A NEW song? But Randy, we like the old hymns and not all of those ‘new’ songs. Many of us like all the music whether old time-honored hymns or new praise and worship music. My only stipulation is that it honors God and creates an emotion in us that brings us closer to Him. We always have to remember that the focus of our music must be kept on God. There is no one style that fits all or brings out the same emotion in everyone.

We sing because it makes us feel closer to God and it is what He has told us to do. Psalm 147 tells us, “For it is good to sing praises to our God.” Psalm 100 tells us to “Come before His presence with singing.” We have a piano, keyboard and organ that we use in our worship, but our voice is the only instrument made by God.

If you read my article last month, I spoke about being a Joyful Worshipper. One way we can bring joy into our worship and our hearts is to sing for Him. Let our singing make us joyful in our worship of Him. He deserves all that we have to give.

For His glory,

Randy



**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.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



Thurs., May 5, 2011

A Mighty Fortress is our God

**Join us for an early evening
National Day of Prayer Outdoor Event**



**5:30 pm:
Prayer Stations**



**6:30 to 7:30 pm:
Prayer, Praise & Worship Program
Dotzler YMCA Outdoor Center
22801 Bayshore Drive • Charlotte Harbor
(just off Edgewater Drive past Glass Lane on the right)**

Bring your chair(s) and blankets

Beginning at 5:30, we will have prayer stations where you can spend time alone with God praying for the family, community, nation and world. At 6:30, we will begin our NDP service with live praise & worship music and clergy from local Christian Churches to lead us in prayer.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

For further information on the evening event, please call 941.639.3162

Other Charlotte County Gatherings on May 5th
from 12:15 to 12:45 pm

Punta Gorda City Hall Annex
126 Harvey Street
Punta Gorda
941.456.6804

Charlotte County Administration Bldg.
18500 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte
941.627.2232



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women (PW) will meet **Saturday, June 11th at 11am**. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex on the PW table for your choice between an INDOOR PICNIC (covered dish) or LUNCH AT A RESTAURANT (Dutch treat). Please sign the sheet as soon as you can so that arrangements may be made.

HAND MADE Chrismons for our Christmas trees THIS Christmas!

We need more people who can handle a needle and thread or glue and glitter to join us at our Chrismon Construction Workshops on **May 4th and 18th**.

We have enough experience to be dangerous and it will be our pleasure to share our new skill with anyone willing to spend a couple hours. Please come and join us so that our Christmas trees at First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda will be a joyful statement of worship of our Lord and God for all to see for many years to come.

Kay Callahan will be making up Chrismon kits and will have them available at the coffee hour on Sundays. She will also give instructions for the kits.

CONSTRUCTED CHRISMONS



MEANINGS FOR THE CONSTRUCTED CHRISMONS

CROSS ATOP ORB: Artists often depict our Lord holding an orb, the world and the heavens around it, topped with a cross to symbolize His dominion over the earth.

THREE ENTWINED CIRCLES: A symbol for the Holy Trinity, one God in Three Persons, Each eternal, All One.

FISH BEARING A BASKET OF BREAD: The fish with bread on its back is a reminder of our Lord's presence in Holy Communion, of our Lord's gift of Himself for us. Also, the fish was a secret sign used by early Christians who were persecuted for their faith. To show they were believers of Jesus, they drew a fish. The first letters of the Greek words for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior" spell the Greek word for fish (IXOYC).

IOTA ETA SIGMA (IHS) IN A CIRCLE: The Latin phrases became most widely known: *Jesus Hominum Salvator* (*Jesus, Savior of Mankind*). The circle around the monogram may suggest eternity and divinity. Modern interpretation can also be "In His Service."

CHRISTOGRAM WITH CROSS, CHI RHO, TRIANGLE, & M: The Chi Rho and the cross are readily apparent in this design. A triangle symbolizes the Holy Trinity and points to our Lord's divine nature while the M, a monogram for His mother, Mary, suggests His humanity.

THE ALPHA AND OMEGA: Are Greek letters which together are the reference to Jesus Christ's self description in Revelation 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Revelation 1:8

THE HEART: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

THE BUTTERFLY: Represents the immortality of the soul. Our Lord's Resurrection; the Resurrection of those who die in Christ. I Corinthians 15:20-23

ANGEL: Winged being suggests the spirits that God created to praise and serve Him. As God-sent messengers, ANGELS told men of the Birth, Resurrection and Ascension of His Son. Matthew 1:20, 21; Luke 2:9 ff; John 20:12; Acts 1:10, 11



Our prayers and sympathy are shared with:

† Stan Smith and family on the passing of his wife, Barbara, April 15th.

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

THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 2 Cor 4:16-17

I attended an all-day conference in April titled, "Protecting the Aging Brain: Focus on Nutrition and Mind/Body Health," presented by Gary W. Arendash, Ph.D. (Florida Alzheimer's Research Center and the University of South Florida). He used research to present what is currently known and/or being studied in our country and around the world. This article contains information I obtained from Dr. Arendash. He states the very best website available and the one he uses more than any other is from the National Library of Medicine, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez?db=pubmed. Simply provide several key words such as "Alzheimer's, caffeine" or a researcher's name. You get a chronological listing of articles (beginning with the most recent) for the key words or researcher you type in.

Alzheimer's Disease (AD) begins decades before symptoms appear. It is important to build a **Cognitive Reserve** by engaging in physical and intellectually stimulating activity while in your 30's and beyond. This could keep one from getting AD permanently or until many years later.

The cerebral cortex houses our long-term memory while the hippocampus stores our short term memory. Also important are our synapses, or the way the neurons communicate. We lose 10% of our brain weight over our lifetime, much of which is synapses.

Neurons are the working unit of the brain. We increase neurons with increased mental activity, we decrease neurons with STRESS.

Remember, what helps your heart also helps your brain! We do have cardiovascular changes as we age, including arteries losing elasticity (arteriosclerosis) and less blood flow to the brain with less glucose utilization. Our brains consume 20% of our bodily oxygen.

Two thirds of all adults will eventually develop AD but 1/3 won't.

Age 65-74 have 5-10% chance of developing AD.

Age 75-84 have 20% chance of developing AD.

Over age 85 have 50% chance of developing AD.

If you live to age 97 you should no longer be at risk for AD.

I will continue the information throughout the next few months but here are two interesting facts:

- Caffeine during midlife prevents risk of AD by 65%. The optimum dose of caffeine is 500mg per day. Fresh brewed coffee is 100mg per cup, tea is 35mg, soda is 25mg. Caffeine improves performance in a damaged brain and protects against brain dysfunction. It also protects against Parkinson's disease, colon cancer, liver disease, and diabetes. If you get your blood level to 1200ng/ml, you have 100% chance of avoiding AD. Coffee is an anti-inflammatory and has antioxidants. Note: If using caffeine regularly, it does not increase blood pressure or cause arrhythmias, per Dr. Arendash's personal studies.
- Statin drugs were given in two clinical trials and have been found to be unsuccessful to reduce AD. Statins have been reported to cause memory impairment in a surprisingly high number of patients, so best avoid the statins that penetrate the brain. Statins that easily penetrate the brain (AVOID): Lipitor, Zocor, Lovostatin, Atorvastin, red yeast rice. Note: Lovostatin use is linked to symptoms of anxiety and depression. Statins that do not enter the brain (GOOD): Pravastatin, Fluvastatin, Rosuvastin.

Want any references? Need help? Call me at 941-456-6804.

Because He lives!
Debbie Carney, RN



A MESSAGE FROM THE BEREAVEMENT TEAM

This summer is quickly approaching and I will soon be back in Atlanta. I would like to leave you with seven signs of being a winning Christian. Many of us retired at the height of our careers because we wanted to be remembered for the good things we accomplished and not stay on the job until our work became anything less than our best. There is a great deal to be said for this frame of mind.

Winning Christians have received Christ as Lord and Savior and keep His Biblical rules. They overcome adversities with grace and give Christ their best in all they do. They proclaim winning beliefs and do not whine or blame others for their inadequacies. They practice persistence and are determined to be purposeful. They take 100 percent of the responsibility for their lives and refuse to wallow in a state of neither entitlement nor failure.

Winning Christians want to serve, are fearless and are not consumed with greed. When we work for Christ we must be winners because His perfection requires us to do our best because we are called to be humanity's role models. Go out into the world this summer and do your best for Him.

Romans 8:28: And we know that all work together for good to them that love God.

Joan Hoffman will be taking over BTM for the summer. Any questions or concerns need to be directed to Joan. Have a wonderful summer, surrounded by the blessings of our Savior.

Joy Kiser

2011 Living Cross—Created by Phyllis Botticelli



Celebrating Administrative Professional Day



Pastor Steve's "Mod Squad" —
Kay, Gail, Elizabeth, & Dianne

MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

ABOUT NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

National Day of Prayer is held every year on the first Thursday of May and is an invitation to people of all faiths to pray for our nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

The National Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation in the *National Day of Prayer*. The Task Force encourages every individual to participate in personal prayer and repentance, publishes materials for prayer events, and mobilizes the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and families. Based on the understanding that the United States was birthed in prayers and faith in the God of the Bible, the Task Force seeks to unite followers of Judeo-Christian faiths through the *National Day of Prayer*.

We invite you to join us in celebrating Charlotte County's *NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER* at Punta Gorda City Hall Annex, Harvey Street on **Thursday, May 5th at noon** or at Dotzler YMCA Outdoor Center, 22801 Bayshore Drive, Charlotte Harbor on **Thursday, May 5th beginning at 5:30pm**. There is plenty of parking. Dress casual and come worship with prayer, praise, words of wisdom and song. Bring your chair or a blanket, whichever is most comfortable.

CENTS-ABILITY

Cents-ability is a strategy for raising awareness – and funds – for the fight against hunger. It is an opportunity to invite every member – young and old – to contribute a few cents at every meal.

This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have each received. It is also a commitment to share our blessings with others. Collectively, it can make a difference. A fourth of your donations is kept by First Presbyterian Church for our local needs, a fourth goes to the Presbytery (*current recipients are Misión Peniel in Immokalee and St. Paul's Breakfast Program in North Port*), and half is sent to the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Let's make sure our colorful canisters on the tables in Fellowship Hall are filled to brimming to help this worthy cause.

MAY MISSION PROJECTS

Fill the blue bin with canned fruits and vegetables for the month of May. Let no child go hungry in Charlotte County. Let's see that bin overflowing each week!

For the month of May, fill the basket with your favorite peanut butter and jelly for our special migrant friends at Misión Peniel. The Mexicans love peanut butter; the Guatamalans love jelly. The little ones love it all. Let's give them a treat!!

If you would like to volunteer on a Friday afternoon to help with serving the meal at Misión Peniel, talk to Dianne Sizemore. Our next trip will be on **Friday, May 27th**, carpooling from the church at 12:30pm.

Come one, come all, to a spaghetti dinner sponsored by your Mission Team on Tuesday, May 10th at 6pm. Good Food! Good Fellowship!!! And an interesting program by Ann Guy from Second Chance Recovery. (Second Chance Recovery is a home for women recovering from alcohol and drug addictions).

This is a good opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to come and fellowship and hear about a worth-while ministry.

GOD IN MY DAY

I SAW GOD TODAY.
IN THE RIPPLING OF THE WAVES
IN THE DIAMOND SUN THAT SPARKLES
ON THE WATER ALONG THE WAY.

I SAW HIM IN THE BIRD NEST
WITH BABIES OH SO SMALL
I SAW HIM IN THE BIRDS AWING
AS I STOPPED TO HEAR THEIR CALL.

I SAW HIM IN THE SMILES
AS I JOINED A FRIEND FOR LUNCH
AND IN THE HAND THAT GRIPPED MINE
AS WE SHARED OUR OWN LIFE'S TRIALS.

I SAW HIM IN THE CLOUDS
THEIR FORM SO WHITE AND HIGH.
HIS BREATH A BREEZE THAT PASSED ME
AS IF A GENTLE SIGH.

I FELT HIS COMFORT SURROUND ME
A WARMTH THAT FILLED INSIDE
AS I STRUGGLED WITH THE PAIN
AND SAT AND CRIED AND CRIED.

I HEARD HIM IN THE SOUND
OF A HYMN SO HEARTFELT SUNG
AS THE CHOIR JOINED ITS VOICES
AND THE CHURCH BELLS RUNG.

YES, GOD IS EVERYWHERE
IN EVERYTHING WE DO
HIS LOVE, HIS COMFORT AND HIS MERCY
BELONGS TO ME AND YOU.

- NANCY BEASOM
(dedicated to Barbara Smith)

MAY 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.*
- *Captain Ryan Hobert, grandson of Mel & Rose Anne Hobert, deployed to Iraq.*

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

MAY

- 1 Vern & Marlene Wilson
- 2 Dave & Barb Woods
- 3 Constance Wrock
- 4 Bob & Natalie Wylie
- 5 Joseph Yerger
- 6 Larry & Andrea Yerger
- 7 Lynn Adams
- 8 Jay & Patricia Aldridge
- 9 Craig & Dotty Anderson
- 10 Stephanie Anderson
- 11 Tom & Vera Aping

MAY

- 12 Laurel Aumend
- 13 Darry & Mary Anne Beasom
- 14 Ron & Nancy Beasom
- 15 Paul & Norma Beattie
- 16 Shirley Berg
- 17 Rick & Kay Berner
- 18 Bob & Dottie Blakey
- 19 Dorothy Blue
- 20 Lynda Borg
- 21 Dick & Phyllis Botticelli
- 22 Lloyd & Loriania Brenton

MAY

- 23 Erma Brown
- 24 Jim & Marion Brown
- 25 Kay Callahan
- 26 James Canada
- 27 Bonnie Carey
- 28 David & Debbie Carney
- 29 Howard & Mary Chamberlain
- 30 Joe Cherny
- 31 Alfred & Helina Churchill

PRAY FOR THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY



- | | | | |
|-----------------|----|---------------|----|
| Shirley Berg | 6 | Jason Hill | 16 |
| Jill Curtis | 7 | Robert Cuzner | 19 |
| Art Koon | 11 | Pete Rehm | 21 |
| Charles Sampsel | 13 | Joan Hoffman | 24 |
| Sam Crockett | 14 | Elaine Unrau | 27 |



- | | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Gene & Janet McLemore | 11 |
| Paul & Vicki Steffen | 17 |

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 June-July issue of *The Messenger* are due in the church office by **Monday, May 16th**.

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, May 5th and 19th**. 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



In the Old Testament book of Job, the title character suffers many losses. During three separate raids in quick succession, he loses his livestock and servants. While still reeling from that news, Job learns that his children died during a furious windstorm. Later, Job also loses his health, when a skin disease causes sores all over his body.

From the list below, choose the one thing Job did not do in response to his great misfortune:

- A. tore his clothes and shaved his head
- B. cursed God and died
- C. sat among ashes
- D. worshiped the Lord



Answer: B (See Job 1-2.)

Popsicle Stick Humor —

Why couldn't the strings ever win?

Answer: They could only tie

What do you feed a disappearing cat?

Answer: Evaporated milk

God Bless You!

Prohibitions against prayer are now common in most public school graduations. But some students at a high school in Washington, Illinois, came up with a way around the ban.

Ryan Brown, a graduate scheduled to speak, paused to bow in silent prayer as he approached the podium. Moments later, with all eyes on him, Brown faked a sneeze. In response, a handful of his friends shouted, "God bless you!"



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



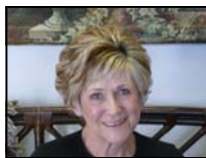
Custodian
Bill Barbour
first@fpcpunta.org



Music Director
Randall Curtis
randy@fpcpunta.org



Volunteer Office Assistant
Gail Thornton
gail@fpcpunta.org



Office Mgr., Bookkeeper & Editor "The Messenger"
Elizabeth Dunn
elizabeth@fpcpunta.org



Volunteer Office Assistant
Kay Callahan
first@fpcpunta.org



Parish Nurse
Debbie Carney
carneydeb@hotmail.com



Treasurer
Joe Cherny
first@fpcpunta.org



First Presbyterian Church

25250 Airport Road
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950



Telephone: (941) 639-1959
Email: first@fpcpunta.org
Website: www.fpcpunta.org



PC(USA)



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



MEMBER, CONFESSING CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH