



The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA

OCTOBER 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.*

Stay connected when you're away. Watch our worship service LIVE! Go to our website at: www.fpcpunta.org and click on the link "Watch services LIVE here" on our homepage.



MOCK'S MUSINGS

Rev. Stephen A. Mock, Pastor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Session Notes	3
Music Notes	4
Bereavement Team	5
Recipe Exchange	5
Presbyterian Women	6
Thank You	7
Parish Nurse Health Corner	8
Mission Ministry	9
Prayer Calendar, Birthdays & Anniversaries	12
This 'n That	13
Bible Quiz	14
Church Officers & Staff	15
Monthly Calendar—see insert	

On August 25th and 26th, Gail Thornton and I had the opportunity to attend a meeting in Minneapolis of the Fellowship of Presbyterians. Over 1,900 Presbyterians from all 50 states and several countries attended this gathering to discuss the recent changes to our denomination's constitution regarding ordination standards and the new Form of Government. Seven pastors from seven of our largest churches had gathered back in 2010 to prepare for these

“These are turbulent times for our denomination and our church.”

eventual changes, and in the process realized that the PCUSA was deathly ill and dying unless something was done to change it. The move away from Biblical truth and morality was killing our denomination. It was felt that the passage of Amendment 10-A, removing the clear moral standard for ordination requiring ministers, elders and deacons to live in fidelity in the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chaste in singleness, would cross the line – go too far. That's exactly what happened, so the conference in Minneapolis, set up before 10-A was passed, grew from an expected 300 to over 1,900.

The goals of the conference were to provide a worshipful, hopeful environment to discuss and discern God's will for churches wrestling with these issues. They also wanted to present four options that churches can consider in response, ranging from staying in to completely

Continued on page 2: Mock's Musings

leaving. The over 850 churches represented at the conference are all at different places regarding the issues. They tried with these options to provide encouragement and guidance. It was a positive experience and gave most hope for the future.

Here are the four options they presented:

1) Remaining in the denomination and continuing to work for renewal, nurturing mission and ministry as they had been doing.

2) Forming a presbytery within a presbytery. It only takes ten churches to petition to form a new presbytery and this new presbytery would exist in the same geographical location of the old one. The new presbytery would have its own structure and ordination standards in line with Biblical truth. It would require approval by the Synod of South Atlantic and the General Assembly. It would still be in the PCUSA and under the new Form of Government.

3) Affiliations and Councils. I know the least about this one. But what is being suggested is that within a presbytery there would be two Committees on Ministry and two Committees on Preparation for Ministry. One would be as is with the current ordination language and the other would work under standards that hold to fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman and chaste in singleness. Churches would affiliate with the one they agree with.

4) The New Reformed Body. In January 2012, leaders from the Fellowship of Presbyterians will be holding a constitution convention to form a new Reformed Body (denomination) separate from the PCUSA. It would be connected to the PCUSA like another denomination would be, like the United Methodist Church. It would be a totally different

denomination with its own statement of faith and structure based on a more Biblical understanding of the church and less bureaucratic, with the Word of God the standard of the church including ordination standards that require fidelity in marriage and chaste in singleness.

This last option seemed to be the most attractive to the majority and it is going to happen in January. The leaders of this movement believe God is doing something new, but we're still trying to discern what that might be.

Also, they emphasized that they weren't mad or angry and that we need to turn our feelings into positives – our anger into grace – as we seek God's will.

Now, where are we in this whole matter? Your Session is also in a discernment period, seeking God's will. We will be prayerfully discussing these options and will keep you informed. Some of you may not even care about what is happening as long as, "I can do what I want to do at my church." But there are many who are upset with these changes by the PCUSA that opens the door to behaviors and lifestyles that they believe are not Biblical and are in fact called sin in the Bible. So far, we have not lost any members over these changes, but I have had some members express to me that they are ready to leave if things don't change.

These are turbulent times for our denomination and our church. Pray for the Session and for our church as we seek God's will and place for us. If you'd like more information or the history of how we got to this place, feel free to call me. I've been involved in this for over 30 years.

In Christ,
Steve



Our prayers and sympathy are shared with:

- † Joanie Mock and family on the passing of Joanie's mother, Grace Woodbury on August 27, 2011 in Toledo, OH.
- † Beverly Doupé and family on the passing of Beverly's mother, Mary F. Carter Decker on August 30, 2011 in Punta Gorda.

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

SESSION NOTES



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUGUST 22ND SESSION

- 2010 Financial Records reviewed by Marguerite O'Brien & Sharon Cuzner were found to be in order.
- Checking Account changed from Wells Fargo to Charlotte State Bank.
- Shares from Isabella Stock have been deposited in our stock account. This is from the McKenzie Estate.
- Mortgage Balance - \$121,479.36.
- Roof repairs - Marguerite O'Brien asked if original contractor has been contacted. She or Dave Woods to contact Mike Pitts to see what our options might be.
- Approved - Mission request for a fund raiser to sell coffee cakes to raise money for special Mission projects.
- Approved - Laurel Aumend as sitting elder to chair nominating committee & Gail Thornton as second representative.
- Approved - Session Operations Manual as written.
- Approved - Steve's request for September 4th as a vacation day. Ron Kruzel will preach.
- Approved - September 4th communion moved to September 11, 2011.
- Approved - Don Washabaugh & Dianne Sizemore as reps to the August 27th Presbytery Meeting at Chapel by the Sea.

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session

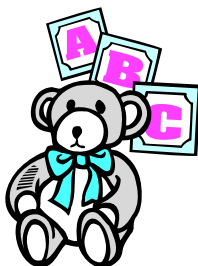
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 19TH SESSION

- Devotions - Prayer for many people in our congregation and concerns of the church.
- Membership: 108 active, 26 affiliate, 9 inactive.
- Property Sale - Scheduled to close on property on October 20, 2011.
- Mortgage balance \$119,066.22 as of August.
- Gail and Steve gave a report on their trip to Minneapolis about the conference by the Fellowship of Presbyterians.
- Nominating Committee has the slate of officers for 2012.
- Approved a congregational meeting on 11/13/11, following the second service to elect officers for 2012.
- Approved Joe Cherny & Gail Thornton as commissioners at Presbytery meeting.

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session

If you are an active member and have been ordained as an elder in the PCUSA denomination, please call the office at 639-1959. We are attempting to establish a list of ordained elders in our congregation. If you have served on our session at one time, you need not respond.

Gail Thornton, Clerk of Session



Congratulations to:

- ♥ Gail Thornton on the birth of her 14th great-grandchild, Sliyah Rose Garcia, on July 29, 2011. Sliyah's proud parents are Abel & Rachel Garcia.

MUSIC NOTES

Why Do We Sing?

We sing because we're happy.
We sing because we're free.
We lift our songs to Jesus
But what does it really mean?

It means we love Him dearly
It means we love Him true
It means we see Him clearly
Giving Him what He's due.

Sometimes we're really trying
When we sing to Him our songs
It appears we may be crying
And nothing's even wrong.

We sing because we're loved
By the one who knows us best
We sing because we're blessed
To be in His loving nest.

And when our song is over
And we've said the last Amen
In our heart we keep on singing
Cause the song just never ends.

For those who may ask us
Was it just a show?
Let us be His witness
Our hearts for Him aglow.

We'll sing for Him forever
Our souls it will surely mend
His song will never be over
If we sing it 'til the end.

May all our music praise our Risen
Lord and speak of His love in each of us.

For Him,



The Wonder of Worship

How sweet the hour of praise and prayer,
When our devotions blend,
And on the wings of faith divine
Our songs of joy ascend!

—Fanny Crosby

A Guide for Giving

"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little.

"If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them."

—C.S. Lewis



Attention all sitting Elders and Deacons —

On Wednesday, November 2nd, from 10am to 11:30am, there is a scheduled get together for sitting elders and deacons and all their committee members. We will be discussing what is happening in our church and what may happen in the future. Refreshments will be served. Please sign up in the church entrance if you plan on attending. Call me if you have any questions.

**In Christians Love
Laurel Aumend, 625-5238**

A MESSAGE FROM THE BEREAVEMENT TEAM

When my mom died last winter, I felt many emotions. Most had been resolved two summers ago when I found it necessary to place her in a nursing home. But at the time she passed on, I realized that doubt had crept in. I asked myself, why explore bereavement and grief? Doesn't it just make people unhappy and sad? Then I began to explore why I asked these questions and looked for meaningful answers. In my search, I found some of the writings of George MacDonald.

MacDonald wrote, "Doubt is the hammer that breaks the windows clouded with human fancy, and lets in the pure light."

I came to know that God allows one to doubt so we can find His answers. We explore bereavement so we will understand when it happens to us. Perhaps these articles may sadden those who read them, but maybe the sadness will lead them to realize that finding answers to bereavement will help them cope when their time for grieving comes.

The Bereavement Meet & Chat group will meet **Friday, October 7th at 10am**. Please contact me if you want to join us.

May God's grace surround you,
Joy Kiser

RECIPE EXCHANGE

Compliments of Elaine Schultz

Butter Pecan Bundt Cake

15 oz. pumpkin can
½ cup water
2 egg whites
1 package of Butter Pecan cake mix (with pudding) – dry
3 tablespoons caramel topping

- Spray pan (or grease and flour)
- Thoroughly mix all ingredients except the caramel topping.
- Pour into pan.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.
- After cooling 5 minutes, invert onto cake plate and drizzle topping over cake.

3 Weight Watchers points - 16 servings



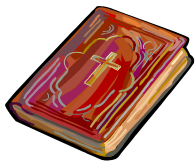


PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women (PW) will meet on Saturday, October 8th. Invite a friend to come with you and/or call someone in church to remind them of the meeting or pick them up. The PW meeting will begin at 11am with a program, followed by lunch. Please bring a dish, sandwiches, salad, fruit or vegetables for the table. PW will furnish dessert and drinks. Please bring a gift for a baby, no need to wrap **BECAUSE---**

It's a Baby Shower

Anita Maguire, Executive Director of the Pregnancy Careline Center, will be our speaker. She will explain the program and present its needs. The Pregnancy Careline is looking for volunteers to help staff the Careline and items for babies. There is a training program for Careline staff, which Anita will explain. Items needed for babies include diapers (sizes 1, 2, 3, and 4 - nothing larger) and wipes. They furnish layettes for new born babies that consist of 2 bottles (most moms are nursing their babies), an outfit to come home in, receiving blankets, a small stuffed animal and one-piece play suits, and booties.



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will continue to meet the **first and third Tuesday of each month through December 6th at 10am**. Our study of Deborah is by Judith Couchman and is titled "Daring to Be Different." As in the past, the Women's Bible Study will be held in the home of Sharon Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande, Punta Gorda Isles. All studies are about 1 1/2 hour in duration with time for fellowship, cookies and coffee. All women of our church are invited and visitors are welcome. Please join us and learn about the women of the Bible.



The Chrismon ornaments we are making for our Christmas trees are exquisitely hand-made with each bead sewn on separately. The ladies that have joined us are tremendously talented and productive, and their creative ideas have been made into lovely, one-of-a-kind, works of art to grace our Christmas trees for many years (generations) to come. Each ornament has taken their loving hands days (some have taken weeks) to make. Comments have been made that making them has almost become "addictive" because you can't wait to see what your ideas and choice of Christian symbol will look like. We've been working since January 2011, and some of the ladies have become quite proficient and productive. Many of the beads used came from members of our congregation who donated their discarded gold and pearl necklaces.



Kay Callahan will be making a catalog of pictures of each ornament with the name of the maker, date, and the meaning of the Christian symbol. Chrismons have been made by: Shirley Berg, Kay Callahan, Millie Drum, Phyllis Ehrhardt, Joan Hoffman, Connie Johansen, Cheryl Laird, Rachel Pfaender, Joyce Rebholz, Betty Stroth, Diane Truby and Barb Woods. Dave Woods and Verner Laird have joined us on occasion to help bend the wire and wire coat hangers into stars, fish, etc. Phyllis Botticelli provided her wedding gown lace and Marguerite O'Brien provided money for felt fabric and pellon fabric stabilizer.



The two hours we spend together **every other week on Wednesday at 10am** seems to fly by and the fellowship has been awesome. If you'd like to participate, there's still some time to make a Chrismon before the trees are decorated in late November.



Verner & Cheryl Laird



Joyce Rebholz



Barb Woods



Shirley Berg



To my church family,

Thank you for my 95th birthday party at the church, over 60 people attended. Many of our church family were up north, but if you were here and I missed stopping by to say thank you for coming, I'm sorry.

Thank you Pastor Steve for hosting the party. You did a great job.

I also want to thank everyone for their wonderful cards and those who gave donations to our church. It was a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,
Doris Henning

Dear Pastor Steve, office volunteers and loving Congregation,

Dick and I want to express our thanks for all you've done for both of us during the past year. You have been so kind in keeping us in your prayers and feeding us. Your many cards and phone calls have brought us hope and comfort.

My thank you to Pastor Steve for his visits to both Dick and I while we were in the hospital and at home. His caring was greatly appreciated.

I especially want to thank my Stephen's Minister for her understanding and caring. I can't express what a wonderful service this is...and to think I had to be coaxed to take advantage of it. It brought me great peace.

What a blessing our parish nurse is. Debbie, thank you for your constant care and prayers even when you were in New York State.

God Bless each and every one of you. I only wish I could PASS IT ON to all of you.

With Love of Christ,
Dick and Phyllis Botticelli

My thanks go to all of our congregants who have been so kind and concerned regarding my health over the summer. I feel pretty good, and your good wishes and prayers have much to do with that.

Cy Ling

Dear church family,

Thank you so much for your many prayers, cards, notes, and hugs since Joanie's mom went home to the Lord on August 27th. Through your sympathy and love, we have felt God's comfort. We are truly blessed to part of God's family.

Love in Christ,
Joanie & Steve



The VNA (Visiting Nurses Association) will be at the church giving flu shots on **Thursday, October 13th from 9:30am to 11:30am**. If you're on Medicare, please be sure to have your card with you.

Immunizations Available

- * Seasonal Flu \$25
- * Preservative Free Flu (limited doses available) \$30
- * High Dose Flu (age 65 & over ONLY) \$50
- * Pneumonia \$65
- Tetanus w/Pertussis (not billed to Medicare) \$60
- Tetanus (not billed to Medicare) \$40

* (covered by Medicare Part B)

THE PARISH NURSE HEALTH CORNER

Victim or Victor?

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor 15:57

Part of the parish nurse mantra is, “Become an empowered patient, be the gatekeeper of your health.” What grade would you give your parish nurse for the following scenario?

Last Christmas, my husband Dave’s left knee began to swell and be painful, for no apparent reason. Could it be the gout? Not likely, as Dave has taken Tart Cherry Juice (from Feger’s Health Food Store) for years with great relief! Time to see the doctor.

After the New Year he got an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon and had x-rays and a cortisone injection. Still in pain, an MRI was done and the diagnosis was “severely torn meniscus,” with the best remedy being surgery. NO WAY!

Months passed, and we wondered about going north for the summer. Dave decided to have the arthroscopic surgery on April 15th, and now the healing could begin. He dutifully applied ice, went to physical therapy and stopped golfing with NO IMPROVEMENT!

Up north, Dave healed temporarily, and then the symptoms came back with a vengeance. The first doc gave Dave an injection of Synvisc (this cushions the knee) and removed fluid, with no improvement in the pain or swelling. Due to insurance issues, we then went to a doc in a little town of Corry, Pennsylvania and met the best orthopedic surgeon of all! Dr. Gurkoff sat with us and explained that Dave had osteoarthritis and his left knee was BONE-ON-BONE. He said Dave had 100cc’s of fluid in his knee and draining it would NOT help. He did relieve the swelling with a prescription of cortisone tablets, but told Dave he would probably need a partial or total knee replacement (TKR). He admitted that the arthroscopic surgery may have removed some of Dave’s cushion. Finally an answer to all our questions!

We came back to Florida in anticipation of surgery and met with Dr. Toman. The course was laid out for a TKR the next week to relieve Dave of his severe pain. All the paperwork was done and Dave had his hospital band on when suddenly the pain began to subside. He was able to cancel the surgery and is doing well with no pain, just knee weakness. Thanks be to God!

What did we learn from this fragmented care Dave received?

- We did not get a copy of the x-rays, which showed bone-on-bone. Arthroscopic surgery can’t help that situation. Plus, there are studies showing arthroscopic surgery to be one of the worst surgeries done. The study interviewed patients who had arthroscopic surgery compared to those patients medically treated and after a two-year interval, both groups fared the same.
- We recently learned that the time frame for the Synvisc injection to work is between 8-10 weeks. This is about the time Dave was scheduled for surgery. We did not know the Synvisc might begin to have a positive effect at this late time. He could have easily had that major surgery.
- Dave had his knee drained of fluid which was very painful. Dr. Gurkoff told us that draining of the knee is futile as the inflamed cells will just produce more fluid.
- Doctors don’t have the time to analyze each patient’s situation. We must be our own gatekeeper. It is important to get and keep our medical records, especially since we pay for them.
- Talk to others about your medical condition. This is no time to be private, as team work pays off! Learn from others mistakes.

I am always available between the first and second services EACH Sunday to check your blood pressure or help you with any medical condition.

Because He lives!

Debbie Carney, RN — carneydeb@hotmail.com, 637-9389, 456-6804

MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

BACK PACK KIDZ FEED 650 HUNGRY KIDS EVERY WEEKEND

The number of children in Charlotte County needing food for the weekends is staggering. Back Pack Kidz is serving hungry children at five elementary schools, and that equates to 650 *certified needy* children and 650 food-filled backpacks! Last year 60 backpacks went to Sally Jones School; this year it is 120.

Can you believe in our area a child asked for her back pack returned to her the day she turned it in. When she was queried she said she needed it "because there is **no** food at our house."

YOU CAN HELP.....The real need is about two hours of your Wednesday morning, beginning in October at 10:15am, to pack the backpacks. This is done at Community Self Storage, 6221 Marlympia Way, Punta Gorda. Your Mission Team would like to offer one or two members of our congregation to help each week. If we get enough volunteers, you only have to help just once a month or even once every other month. There is flexibility to the schedule. PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE CHURCH ENTRY.

SPAGHETTI DINNER OCTOBER 26TH



Mark your calendar for **October 26th at 6:00pm** for a really great Spaghetti Dinner and a visit from Ann Guy who will tell us about her passion, Second Chance Recovery.

This should be a very exciting dinner talk, great fellowship, and it will give you a chance to learn about another happening in our community. We are requesting a \$7 donation for the dinner. After expenses, we will donate any balance to Second Chance Recovery. If you cannot drive at night, we will find someone to pick you up. Just call the church office and make it known that you need a ride. A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the church entrance. Please sign up so that we have enough food for everyone.

HELP THOSE LESS FORTUNATE

Want to feel good about helping those less fortunate than you? Plan to come with us to Misión

Peniel on **Friday, October 28th**. We have fun, we have laughter, and we work hard as we feed the hungry migrants and pass out clothes. We leave the church at 12:30pm. We always stop for a great meal and fellowship at Cracker Barrel on the return home. Please see Dianne Sizemore or call 743-5637 to reserve your seat for a rewarding trip.

OPEN HOUSE AT WIMAUMA

YOU ARE INVITED to come to Wimauma for a great open house and tour of the Beth-El facility, the parent facility of Misión Peniel, on **Sunday, October 16th beginning at 2pm** and closing with a worship service at 4:30pm in their new lovely sanctuary. Wonderful snacks will be served.

They have an exciting facility with lots going on. Plan to go and see how our dollars are being spent. Contact Dianne Sizemore so we can plan car pooling from the church.

THANKSGIVING GIFTING

Beginning Sunday, October 16th through November 13th, we will be collecting monies for Thanksgiving gifting for the many hungry of Charlotte County. Your gifting is much appreciated and will give those who are less fortunate a great Thanksgiving feast. Also, it will let them know that God cares for even the littlest person in Charlotte County. Your dollars will help to send that message and make that difference. Envelopes will be provided in the October 9th bulletin or you can use a pew envelope marking it as Thanksgiving offering. We can make a difference!!!!

SHOEBOX GIFTING

Because of the economy, we will not be doing Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Gifting this year. We will instead do shoebox gifting for Misión Peniel, which is closer to home. Please watch for all the exciting particulars in the November issue of *The Messenger*. If you have any questions, call Dianne Sizemore at 743-5637 or Gail Thornton at 639-5510.

SALLIE JONES ELEMENTARY

SALLIE JONES ELEMENTARY is a year-round school. Do you know our own Ann Swift, one of our Praise Team members, is a teacher there? Because this

Continued on page 10: Mission Ministry

◆ MISSION MINISTRY

is a year-round school, our donations of school supplies and sneakers is needed to replace supplies or to supply new needy students throughout the year.

They have students from pre kindergarten through the 5th grades. The school has received a 7 out of 10 in academic performance. They offer computer, video and film production, chorus, band, ceramics and sculpture, drawing and painting, theater and drama, Spanish and many sport programs. They have special programs in academics and science as well as community service and radio and video.

There is a supervised, before and after school program where they have homework help and structured activities.

Sallie Jones is located only a few blocks from our church in the neighborhood across from the high school. Help us to come along beside them by filling the basket in the church entrance to overflowing with sneakers and

school supplies. Let them know how God is working with his love.

YOUR MISSION TEAM

Do you know who is on your Mission Team? They are David and Bev Doupé, Bill and Elaine Schultz, Mary Vincent, Laurel Aumend, Ron and Nancy Beasom, Gail Thornton, Elder liaison and Dianne Sizemore, Chair. Any one of us can answer your questions and concerns.

Would you like to be on a real working committee and help us to spread God's love? Join us the **second Tuesday of every month at 3:00pm**. We can always use another caring person with new ideas and a willingness or passion to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. I guarantee satisfaction of a job well done each time we help. See you at the mission meeting.

Dianne Sizemore, Chair



Mission Project Beginning October 23rd

Your Mission Team will begin selling Butter Braid Coffee Cakes in October. Samples will be served on October 23rd at coffee hour after the 2nd service. This project is to raise money for any special mission needs, such as Christmas for Immokalee children, school supplies, etc. The coffee cakes are frozen dough that you thaw, let raise, and then bake. They are of excellent quality and the cost is \$12 each, of which \$5 goes to the mission fund.

CHANGES

WE FACE CHANGES EVERYDAY
CHANGES ALL ALONG OUR WAY.

SOME ARE BIG AND SOME ARE SMALL
SOME CAN RAISE US UP OR MAKE US FALL.

AS WE MOVE ABOUT OUR LIFE
WE TRY TO RUN AWAY FROM STRIFE.

BUT LIFE IS FULL OF GOOD AND BAD
SO WE MUST LEARN TO NOT BE SAD.

CHANGES COME AND CHANGES GO
SOME CHANGES TOSS US TO AND FRO.

JOB MAY CHANGE AND STIR UP FEAR
LOVED ONES MAY CAUSE US MANY A TEAR.

FRIENDS MAY MOVE AND LOVED ONES LEAVE
SOME CHANGES MAKE US GLAD AND SOME WE GRIEVE.

EVERYWHERE WE LOOK WE SEE
THINGS THAT CHANGE AND WILL NEVER BE

NOW LET US LOOK AT WHAT GOD DOES.

HIS LOVE, GRACE, MERCY, TRUTH AND WORD
ARE WITH US EVERY SINGLE DAY

SO CHANGES COME AND CHANGES GO
BUT GOD DOES NOT JUMP TO AND FRO.

HE IS ALWAYS THERE TO BE WITH US
THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW IN EVERYWAY.

-- NANCY BEASOM

OCTOBER 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.

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

OCTOBER

1 Dottie Blakey
 2 Dorothy Blue
 3 Lynda Borg
 4 Dick & Phyllis Botticelli
 5 Lloyd & Loriania Brenton
 6 Jim & Marion Brown
 7 Kay Callahan
 8 Bonnie Carey
 9 Dave & Debbie Carney
 10 Howard & Mary Chamberlain
 11 Joe Cherny

OCTOBER

12 Alfred & Helina Churchill
 13 Jean Cleffi
 14 Sam & Carol Crockett
 15 Irene Csontos
 16 Randy & Diane Curtis
 17 Jill, Daniel, & Michael Curtis
 18 Robert & Sharon Cuzner
 19 Donald & Annabelle Deblauw
 20 Connie Diller
 21 David & Beverly Doupe
 22 Don & June Drake

OCTOBER

23 Millie Drum
 24 Kathryn Duke
 25 Elizabeth Dunn
 26 Helmut & Phyllis Ehrhardt
 27 Fran Farris
 28 Lynn Fermato
 29 Sarah Ferry
 30 Dick & Sandy Fisher
 31 Chris, Laura, Jonathan, & Timothy Epperly



- PV2 Alexander Fogg, grandson of Bob & Carol Fogg, deployed to Afghanistan.
- Captain Ryan Hobert, Army-23rd Infantry, grandson of Mel & Rose Ann Hobert, 2nd deployment to Iraq.
- CW5 Donald L. Washabugh, Jr., Army, son of Don & Mary Anne Washabaugh, stationed in the Pentagon.
- Sgt. Ian Hendricks, Marines, grandson of Dianne Sizemore, stationed in Jacksonville, NC.
- 1st Lt. John McPherson, Air Force, grand nephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed in Scott Air Force Base, IL.
- Capt. Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Fred & Rachel Pfaender, stationed in Ft. Benning, GA.



Barbara Rayn	1	Kay Callahan	21
Sharon Cuzner	4	Daniel Curtis	21
Jason Mock	5	Jean Cleffi	23
Joyce Kiskaddon	9	Helen Fowkes	25
Elaine Schultz	13	Mary Stones	25
Craig Anderson	15	Ron Gensemer	27
Helmut Ehrhardt	19	Donald Deblauw	29



Larrie & Marjorie Tisdale	3
Leonard & Betty Stroth	4
Richard & Anna Hill	16
Walt & Joy Kiser	17
Fred & Diane Tabert	29

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 November issue of *The Messenger* are due in the church office by **Monday, October 17th**.

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, Praise Team Music, or *Music On a Winter's Eve* concert. 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 Ot Someplace) will meet for breakfast at 8am at Sky View Café, Punta Gorda Airport on **Thursday, October 6th and 20th**. 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 FUNDRAISER

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.

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.



Do you have a family member serving in the military? If so, we'd like to add them to the newsletter prayer list. Fill out the form that's on the sign-up table in the church entrance and place in the HELMET or let the church office know.



BIBLE QUIZ



Many new parents choose “Bible names” for their babies. Of the following names, which two (one boy’s and one girl’s) are not found in Scripture?

- A. Eunice
- B. Priscilla
- C. Judith
- D. Clara
- E. Derek
- F. Obed
- G. Reuben
- H. Joel



Answer: D and E

Popsicle Stick Humor —

How does a farmer know how many cows he has?

Answer: He uses a cowculator.

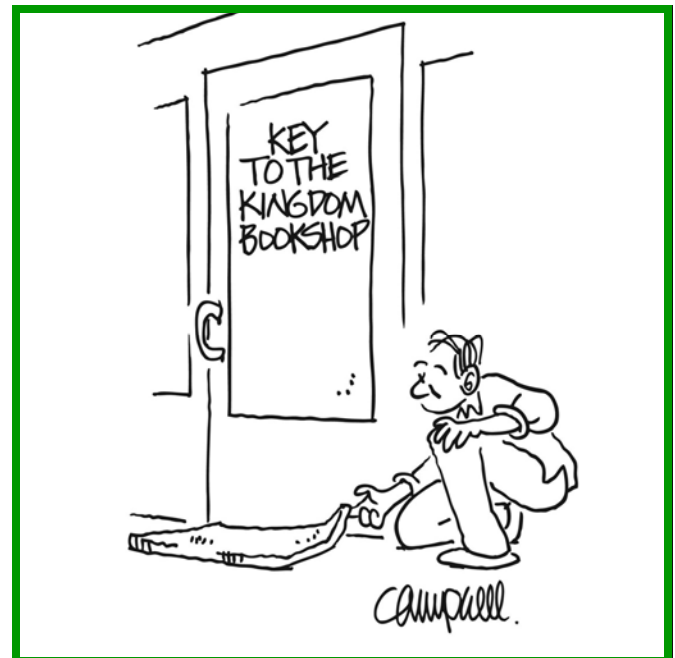
What’s a cat’s favorite button on the DVD?

Answer: Paws.

Time to Step Down

Americans enjoy an abundance of freedoms. From what career we’ll pursue to what we’ll eat for lunch, we’re constantly making decisions about what we want out of life. So it’s hard to find peace when our plans go awry and our circumstances seem out of control.

A wise person suggested, “For peace of mind, resign as general manager of the universe.” What if we stepped down and let God be God? He created the universe, after all. Shouldn’t we trust him to run it?



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



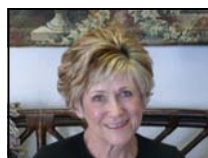
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Music Director
Randall Curtis
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Volunteer Office Assistant
Gail Thornton
gail@fpcpunta.org



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



Volunteer Office Assistant
Kay Callahan
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Parish Nurse
Debbie Carney
carneydeb@hotmail.com



Treasurer
Joe Cherny
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PC(USA)



MEMBER, CONFESSING CHURCH



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH