



Church Improvement

by Barbara Vanderkay

As we close the books on last November's Holly Days Bazaar, we are pleased to report that the final figure stands at \$15,782. This is a bit less than we have been doing in recent years, but considering the economy, which does not seem to improve as quickly as predicted by some experts, that is a respectable amount.

Now we have moved on to February, 2012, and the Step-Above-Rummage Sale. For this endeavor we always seek the cooperation of the entire church membership, and we are always pleased with the out-pouring of help we receive, both from members and quite a few non-members as well.

What are the critical dates? The actual sale begins on **Wednesday, February 8th** from **1 to 3 p.m.** for church members and regular church attendees only. On **Thursday, the 9th**, the doors open at **9 a.m.** for the general public until **3 p.m.**, and continues **Friday and Saturday, the 10th and 11th** from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Donations will be received from **9 a.m. to noon**, weekdays and also Saturdays in Fellowship Hall until **Saturday, February 4th**. We must request that you stick to these times and days to keep down the clutter around the entrance to the hall. Please remember that



we cannot accept really large items. If you can bring it in your car, that will be fine. We need CLEAN clothes and linens, small appliances and electronics that WORK, tableware, sports equipment, dishes and anything for children except cribs or mattresses.

Costume jewelry is a big seller, and may be left at any time in the office or given to a worker. Don't forget that in addition to the costume jewelry which is sold in the Covered Patio, we have a large Antiques and Collectible area there as well. Clearly, this is a Step-Above-Rummage Sale.

Arrangements may be made to leave furniture at the "Old Holly House", where it will be displayed during the sale. Please call Edna Fisher (637-0624), Shirley Kay (392-2697) or Helen Antal (276-5419) for explicit information.

Please make use of the sign-up sheets in the Sunday Bulletin. We will need many hands and willing hearts. This is one of those events that benefit the community but also the workers who enjoy the camaraderie and the knowledge that they are really contributing not only to the customers, by providing wonderful bargains in necessities and luxuries, but also to the enhancement of our beloved church with the money we raise.

Please join us! ❖

Ash Wednesday Service



Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season when we ready ourselves for Easter. Join us on Wednesday, February 22nd at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will read scripture, raise our voices in song, and consider the gift of God's grace. ❖

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Mack's Message

by Rev. Dr. Mack Sigmon
Interim Pastor

I want to share with you a discovery that I made while studying the Book of Acts. Toward the end of Luke's amazing history of the Christian church (the same Luke who wrote the gospel that bears his name), we see the Apostle Paul – in the custody of the Roman army - reach the climax of his missionary journeys as he approaches the city of Rome. Paul understood what his arrival at Rome meant especially to his call from Christ. Paul knew that Rome would be the place where he would be tried and probably martyred. There must have been, at least, a little fear in his heart as the Apostle approached the very heart of the Roman empire.

In Acts 28, Luke narrates the events as Paul, under guard, reaches the edge of the capital city: "The believers from there, when they heard of us, came as far as the forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage. When we came to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him."

Paul's moment of gratitude is in response to the effort made by his Christian brothers and sisters to meet him and encourage him before he stands trial. Seeing their love and embraced by their fellowship, Paul's immediate response is one of gratitude to God that he is not alone, and his prayer of thanks generates the courage that he needs to continue on his final mission. The encouragement of his sister and brother Christians provided him the assurance that he could stand before Emperor and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, even if it resulted in his death.

Often we look at Christian gratitude as an opportunity to give something back to the Lord for all that God has given us, but even when we say "Thanks" to God, we receive something in return. For Paul, it was the courage he needed to fulfill his purpose; for you and me it is whatever assurance, encouragement, or strength we need at this particular moment in our lives.

Perhaps we are struggling with life-changing decisions; perhaps we are facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles; perhaps we are struggling to recover from grief or disappointment. Regardless of our circumstances, showing gratitude to God opens for us another channel to the Holy Spirit, and through that channel the Father sees our needs and provides us with the resources to endure and overcome.

As we begin 2012, perhaps we can take a moment to look around us and see "the mighty cloud of witnesses" that surrounds us. The church and its members are all FOR you and WITH you, no matter what challenges you face in this world. That realization should bring us all to our knees in gratitude. Even more wonderful, from our gratitude to Christ, gifts of faith and courage will be given, along with the blessed assurance that, with Christ on our side, nothing can defeat us! In giving thanks to God, God gives us more to be thankful for – that is the miracle of God's love, a never ending source of courage and hope. Let us be thankful. ❖

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If you or a family member are hospitalized, please notify the church office. Even if you give the name of the church upon admission, the hospital will NOT notify us.

Actively Change Tomorrow Events are a Success

by Jeanne Heavilin

Co-Chair, Mission Outreach Committee

On the third Saturday of each month, we A.C.T., Actively Change Tomorrow. Each month, members of our congregation spend a Saturday morning at a local agency, helping as needed. The first three projects included cleaning up the gardens at Sandoway House, painting at the Florence Fuller Center and serving food and helping out with crafts projects for the 300+ children at the Achievement Center's Holiday party. ❖



A Big Thank You

by Jeanne Heavilin Co-Chair, Mission Outreach Committee

Our 2011 Christmas Eve Offering was dedicated to C.R.O.S. (Christians Reaching Out to Society) Urban Ministries to help them continue to meet the needs of the hungriest in our community. Thanks to your generosity, we have donated \$27,389.48 to C.R.O.S.

Thank you so much for helping to provide help for so many desperate people in our community. ❖

Valentine's Day



by Jen Buce

*Children's Ministry
Coordinator*

Valentine's Day, the day set aside to express our love for one another, whether for our significant other, a sibling, friend or a parent, we often hear the words: will you be my Valentine? This year my special Valentine is someone who is very close and dear to me. I never tire of the endless stories of his childhood and his teenage years. I am so proud of

his accomplishments in life. A very big and muscular man, he can sometimes come across as a bit intimidating, but don't let that fool you, he is caring and giving, but most of all full of love. On a day when life may get you down; he is 700 miles away, but his genuine concern lets you almost feel his



arms around you protectingly, making everything better. This Christmas season he was given a better heart to continue to spread his love to his family and friends for many more years to come. My father asks me every year to be his Valentine, but this year, he is my special Valentine! He taught me to believe in the Lord and trust in the goodness that life has to offer. I'm so grateful that God has given us this opportunity for our family. Valentine's Day may only come once a year, but should be celebrated between loved ones every day. ❖

Church T-shirts

by Rev. Aaron Janklow

Sometime in late February, the congregation will have the opportunity to purchase First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach T-shirts. We recently designed a great shirt for the youth group and after having such a great reaction from several adults who saw it, we've decided to make a similar design available to the entire church.

Following the church services later in the month, you'll be able to see a sample shirt and place your order with the youth. At that time, we'll be able to tell you how much it will cost. This is a really nice shirt and we hope you'll be proud to wear it. It'd be a great shirt to wear to an event like the CROS Walk, a church mission activity, or even when you're running around town. ❖

Annual FAU Memory And Wellness Seminar

by Cynthia Rennick

Save the date. March 8, 2012 in Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m., the annual Memory and Wellness Breakfast Seminar will be presented by Glenda Connolly, MSW, LCSW, Coordinator of Family Support Services, Kathleen Valentine, Ph.D., RN, Director, and Michele Cooper, Social Work Intern, from FAU Louis

and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center Hall. Services such as Comprehensive Memory Evaluations, Mental Health and Aging, Caregiver Programs and Support, Counseling, Research, Driving Evaluations, Community Education and Outreach, Adult Day Center and Volunteering, will be presented. Plan to join us for this informative presentation. ❖



Presbyterian Women's Tea

by Cathy Bolinger

The Presbyterian Women will host an afternoon tea at 2 p.m. on Friday, February 24th at the St. Andrew's Club on A1A. They will have a guest violinist, Mei Luo, from the Delray String Quartet.

The tea is open to all members and friends of the church, so ladies wear your favorite hats and join us for an afternoon of fun, delicious food and fellowship. Tickets will be on sale in the Courtyard immediately following the Sunday services during the month of February. The cost is \$30. For more information, please call Miriam Kalett (954-560-0170). ❖

"Deacons' Corner"

by Siena Del Mastro

You know those typical New Year's Resolutions; the ones that go along the lines of "I'm going to lose twenty pounds this year" or "I'm going to do some form of exercise every day of the year." Most of these resolutions end in failure. We ought to make resolutions that we can actually keep. I know it's now February and the time for making resolutions seems to have passed but why not continue making worthwhile resolutions all year? Why not make a resolution that is realistic and easy to follow? Believing in Jesus Christ is the easiest resolution possible, if you allow Him to enter your life.

For the past year, I have had difficulty grasping what it truly means to follow Christ. Jesus never promised us that our lives are going to be perfect. I've learned that going through pain, heartbreak or mourning tests your relationship with God and shows whether you're ready to go that extra mile in order to have a better relationship with Him.

Just claiming that you believe in Jesus isn't enough to ensure you of eternity with Him in His holy domain. True belief leads you to go beyond what may have seemed like all you could do. You can't just sit there and let opportunities go by without giving it a shot. That's where the phrase "taking a leap of faith" comes from.

In one of the classic Indiana Jones movies, Indie has to take a "leap of faith" over a huge ravine in order to reach the other side of the cave. Supposedly there was an invisible bridge to get across, but Indie wouldn't know the truth without taking that risk.

This is my point. If you take that "leap of faith", or in this case, dare to believe in God, it will really make a difference in your life.

So this year, I want all of you to take that "leap of faith" and make a resolution to become better acquainted with God. Have some chats with Him, listen to your gut feelings and follow your heart. If you are truly open to receiving Him, He will show you absolutely incredible things! ❖

Adult Group



by Rev. Aaron Janklow

Have you ever asked the questions: What role does religion play in world affairs? Why does God allow bad things to happen? Come join the "Adult Group" in discussing these questions. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28 at 6 p.m. in the Christian Learning Center. The group plans to meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the church office (276-6338). ❖

Remember the Church when Estate Planning

Our Endowment and Remembrance Funds are two excellent opportunities for your giving consideration, be it your will, stocks, or as a named beneficiary of an insurance policy. This financially wise method of stewardship helps ensure the long-term financial stability of the church and provides a planned means for the church to continue its role in the lives of our members and those to whom we reach out, in our community and beyond. For more information on long-term giving, call the church office (276-6338). ❖

Celebration of Eternal Life...

Our Deepest Sympathy as a congregation is extended to the families of the following members upon the death of their loved ones:

R. Heath Larry	–	December 18, 2011
Evelyn Pritchard	–	December 23, 2011
Ruth Thompson	–	December 25, 2011

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This newsletter is available online at www.firstdelray.com. If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter, please email Nancy Fine at nancyfine@covad.net.

Sunday Morning Worship Services

9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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

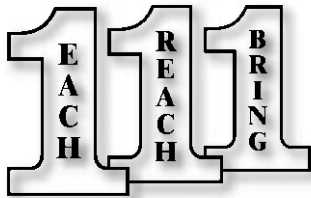
Church School

Adult Church School 10 a.m.

Education Hour Sunday School 10 a.m.

Worship Hour Sunday School 11 a.m.

Youth Fellowship 5 p.m.



Actively Change Tomorrow

A.C.T. (Actively Change Tomorrow) Saturdays are volunteer opportunities sponsored by the Mission Outreach Committee, held on the third Saturday of the month. They need 15-20 volunteers for each event. The next event will be on **Saturday, February 18th** for a Gleaning Project to benefit C.R.O.S. Ministries. Please make sure to contact Emily Schreck (eschreck3@gmail.com) or Jeanne Heavilin (jheavilin@bellsouth.net or 901-8714) to sign up. ❖