

## ***Gulf Beach***

### ***Presbyterian Church***

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## **Sunday Mornings @ Gulf Beach**

Bible Study	9:00AM
Worship	10:15AM
Coffee and Donuts	11:15AM

## **Jazz for the Soul Worship**

2nd Wed./ month at 7PM—Gulftreat

## **BEACH TIDINGS**



**MAY 2016**



# From the Pastor's Pen

## **Being Committed to the Word of God: Look Up!**

*Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. —Deut. 11:18*

National Public Radio once featured a story about a man in New York whose goal was to visit 1,000 New York City bars. They reported he completed his goal at the cost of \$10,000.00 and many, many hours and late nights. The man reportedly said that it had given meaning and purpose to his life. What gives meaning and purpose to your life today? What or who gives you direction?

In the Bible, there are many references and stories about looking to the stars for direction and meaning. Many found it. They discovered meaning and direction about God's plan for the world and their lives by looking toward heaven; toward God. The night sky reminds us of the vastness of God's heaven and earth. We are reminded of how faithfully the mighty acts of God through history have formed our identity and purpose as God's people. The multitude of stars that Abraham saw, that we see, each night, remind us of God's promise of abundance in faithfulness. As we try to comprehend just how vast and sure God's promises are for us, from our first moment of life through our last breath, it takes faith and commitment.

I believe that committing our lives to Christ means committing ourselves to God's Word. Committing your life to Christ may begin at baptism and with your confession of faith. But the real resolve and possibility in keeping this commitment comes day by day and year by year as you read and study and pray the Word of God into your everyday life. The signs, dreams, and experiences that open your heart and mind wide, can only take you so far in life and in your relationship with God. We also have to be committed to the goal of living fully immersed in the Word of God every day.

I'd like you to make a new commitment. Desire to follow Christ in your life like you never have before. If you don't know where to begin, begin with being committed to getting the Word of God worked deeper into your heart and mind. I promise it will change everything else for you. You won't be the same person next month or next year that you are today. Your relationship with Jesus won't be the same tomorrow as it is today. Living through God's Word will give you the meaning and purpose your life naturally seeks.

As a church, I pray that we will be more committed to getting the Word of God worked deeper into our collective heart and mind. This will help us to faithfully follow the path God sets before us.

(continued next page)



(From the Pastor's Pen..... Cont.)

We want to walk on God's path, not our own path, even though it is more well-known or comfortable to us or one that will get us by for another year or so. I want us to be committed to getting to the place of faith, as a congregation, where we are following the ways and actions of God more fully. I want us to be a more loving and serving this community as revealed to us through God's Word and the work of Holy Spirit in us, no matter where it takes us. I expect that these places and opportunities offered to us by God will be the kind of things we might dismiss as impossible or improbable. But with the Holy Spirit's help and abiding presence guiding our imaginations and giving us energy and courage, we can do them.

So, make the commitment. Be more grounded in God's Word. When you make this your goal and act on it, be prepared to find yourself on fire for Christ. Resolve through prayer to read and study the scriptures every day. Ask God to communicate new meaning and purpose for your life and for this church.

Following the Word of God is following Christ. Being committed to Christ is this church's hope for an unimaginable but God promised best future. Remember to pray for one another. Look for signs along the way. Look up. Look to the heavens, to the starry night sky. Remember the promises found there with the Lord. Remember, we are all in this together, thanks be to God.

*"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified." —Acts 20:32*

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Bonnie Wilkins*



**Prayer Love Line...** Mary Foist has asked that everyone email her your new email address. She is getting many back as undeliverable when she sends the email out. Her email address is: [myseaclusion@gmail.com](mailto:myseaclusion@gmail.com)

*Beach Tidings* is published monthly to inform members and friends of church news, upcoming events, and spiritual nurture. **Deadline for contributions is the 15th.** Contributions are subject to editing with regard to subject matter, space requirements and timely submission. For weekly updates, please come to the Worship Service each Sunday morning to receive your copy of the Bulletin and Announcements. Thanks you! —Tari Sale, Newsletter Editor

### **The Session of GBPC**

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### **Prayer Love Line:**

Mary Foist  
myseaclusion@gmail.com

### **May Anniversaries**

9— Ted & Tracy Shoppe  
17— Mike & Suzanne Burke  
19— Jeff & Stacy Prater  
30— Larry & Beth Tyson



### **Sunday Morning Flowers Given for the Month of April**

24<sup>th</sup>—in memory of Marie Culpepper Norton. Given by Lenny Zacher.

**Sunday Morning Flowers:** If you would like to have an arrangement donated in honor or memory of someone or for a special occasion, please sign-up on the flower chart in the Fellowship Hall. Weekly arrangements are \$30. Make your check payable to the church. Envelopes are on the flower sign-up chart. The church will pick up the arrangement on Sunday morning and have it displayed in worship. If you would like to take your flowers home following the worship service, please bring a vase to transport them. Let's glorify God through the beauty of his creation in worship. Thank you – The Worship Committee, Elder Lenny Zacher

## **May Birthday's**

3— Amanda Matthews  
 12—Elise Wiselogel  
 13—Sylvester McCall  
 19—Reinhold (Ron) Pflugfelder  
 30—Reba Love



Please let us celebrate with you! Let the Church know about your Birthday and/or Anniversary. We are updating our lists.

## **Financial Information for March, 2016**

March Income: \$ 19,816      March Expenses: \$ 17,226

YTD Income: \$ 61,929      YTD Expenses: \$ 43,163

*(The above expenses include Mortgage principle payments)*

*If you have not done so, please consider making a financial pledge to the church.*

Please remember Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church in your will to help ensure our mission here in this community into the future.

**Card Tables:** We are in need of a couple more card tables for our Jazz Worship Service each month in Gulftreat. Please consider donating a new or used table the church. —Worship Committee





## Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church

**Our Vision:** Transforming lives by the love of Christ Jesus through Witness, Mission, and Evangelism.

**Our Mission:** To be a place where the community can come together in Christ and provide, through God and his Word, love, comfort and joy to all.

**God's Garden**—The garden continues to grow! Good things are springing-up all over the place back there. Thanks Molly and crew!!

**Tee shirts are for sale at church** to support the church garden! Lots of colors and sizes, just like the variety and beauty in our vegetable, herb, and flower garden.

If you would like to donate vegetable and herb plants, soil, tools, hay bails, your time to weed, plant, water, or tend to things one time or on a schedule, please talk with Molly Allen, Bob Lemkin, or Pastor Bonnie.

You are invited to come and sit on the benches in the garden and enjoy God's beauty and blessing there too, anytime.



*"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it..."*

(Psalm 24:1)

Pray for God's blessings and for growth in our church garden—God's Garden.

# Church Mice



A Dose of Truth with a Dash of Humor

Thanks to the  
youth for leading  
worship on Ap. 3rd.

Olivia & Catherine  
Burke &  
Kyra Stevenson



(See John 20:1-18)

03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES,  
WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS  
SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"

## Our Daily Bread for KIDS

### Can You See It?

You cannot see the wind, but you can see what it does. You can watch trees wave back and forth as the wind blows their branches. You can watch a boat glide across a lake as the wind pushes its sails. You can watch a kite soar high into the sky as the wind carries it along. And you can watch an umbrella turn inside out on a windy, rainy day. If someone said, "I don't believe in the wind because I cannot see it," that would be silly. We know the wind is real because we can see everything it does.



Just like the wind, we can't see God either—but we can see what He does. We can look at the nighttime sky and see the moon and stars He created. We can see His power in the waves of a mighty ocean. We can watch a flock of geese fly south for the winter as God guides them along. And we can see His artwork when He paints colorful sunsets and rainbows.

Ever since the world was created it has been possible to see the qualities of God that are not seen. I'm talking about His eternal power and about the fact that He is God. Those things can be seen in what he has made. —Romans 1:20

God wants us to know He is real. That is why He reveals Himself to us through His creation. If you want to see God, just look around at all He does. God's work is everywhere.



02-07-2011

OH, IT'S YOU GUYS ... I THOUGHT I  
HEARD THUNDER OVER HERE



# Ministry News

**Sara Circle** meets the *2nd Tues. of the month at 12:30p.*  
See you on *May 10th.* Led by Elder Bev Lutz

**Evening Women's Circle** meet for a shared meal and bible study the *4th Monday of each month at 6:00p.* See you on *May 23rd.* Led by Elder Betsy Balmer.



**Hands and Hearts Caregiver Support Group** meet every *Thursday, 1-2PM.* This is a small group of men and women who gather each week to offer care for one another and to share their caregiving experiences in hopes that their solutions may in some way be of benefit to others. Led by Elder Wanda Pflugfelder.

**Jazz for the Soul—May 11th @ 7 p.m.**

Come and worship with us every *2nd Wed. of the month at 7:00p* in Gulfstream. Jazz music by the accomplished jazz pianist, **Amanda Matthews** and invited guests musicians. Communion is celebrated at this service each month. For more information, contact: Lenny Zacher, Worship Team (850 867-3770) or Rev. Bonnie Wilkins (850 234-3161)



**A Creative Word** is a new group for men, women, and youth to hear and interpret the Scriptures through the creative arts. Join Pastor Bonnie as we express our understanding of scripture through various mediums. No artistic ability is needed—just a love for God's Word. *Meets 2nd and 4th Tues./mo., 6:30-7:45p. See you May 10th and 24th.*



**Mancave** is a men's spiritual formation group. It is sponsored by an area Methodist Church and is made-up of men from many area churches here on the beach of all denominations. They meet the 1st and 3rd Tues./mo. at 5:30p at The Pour on Front Beach Rd. A light dinner is served. Come for conversation about everyday life and faith

with other men of Christian faith. For more information, contact Thad Wilkins at (870 415-2083).



## **You Better Tell Somebody!** by Byron Wade - (PCUSA "Next Church" article)

Growing up in South Central Los Angeles, my mother would take me and my two brothers to get haircuts occasionally. We always went to Scottie's Barbershop, which was owned by Scottie and his brother who was also a barber. Both of them were Jehovah's Witnesses and from the time you got in the chair until the time you left, all Scottie would do is talk non-stop about Jehovah while cutting your hair. Scottie never proselytized to me but always spoke about how good and awesome Jehovah is and what a difference he made in his own life. Plus, he seemed so happy doing it! I never came close to leaving the Presbyterian Church but his witness was so strong that I still remember it after all these years.

As Presbyterians, we are known for a lot of things and evangelism is not one of them. Let's face it – calling ourselves the "frozen chosen" is not a sure-fire way to get people interested in coming to our churches, much less developing a relationship with Jesus Christ. However, I believe that we have a God who is the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the entire world and through the Holy Spirit we can tell others of what God has done, is doing, and will do in our lives. So how do we go about sharing the story of Christ? Drawing on my personal and communal experiences, I will share a few tidbits:

*It starts with YOU* – My homiletics professor in seminary always told us if you don't have passion and excitement about what you are preaching, chances are the congregation will not either. It is the same way with evangelism – you have to have and convey excitement and joy in witnessing to other about Jesus Christ. We may begin by asking ourselves, "what do I believe about Jesus?", "what is my relationship with Christ?" and "how can I tell others what God has done for me?"

*...but not by yourself* – Rev. Clinton Marsh, in his book, *Evangelism Is...*, says "Evangelism is the work of the entire people of God." Our faith is not formed alone in a vacuum; it is formed by belonging, listening, and learning with others through the Holy Spirit in the community of faith as well. Evangelism is done differently in various ways. Some churches have evangelism committees; others commission individual church leaders for that responsibility. At Davie Street, we believe everyone has a story to share about their faith with others. Specifically, we engage the congregation during our Tuesday midday prayer studies and monthly family night dinners. In both events, members and invited guests discuss current events/issues such as justice, racism, immigration, gun violence, and others in light of what scripture says (or doesn't say). In most cases participants have a better understanding of the issue and what "says the Lord" so when they go out into the world and encounter others, they can converse and share their faith through stories and examples.

(cont. next page)

(From *You Better Tell Somebody!* ..... Cont.)

This is just one method, but whatever you do, make sure volunteers undergo some evangelism training to help them be able to share their faith in a way that is inviting and non-threatening.

*Cast a wide net* – In many places, communities and ways of life have changed. We are living in an increasingly diverse world, not to mention one that is moving at a faster and faster pace. This could cause challenges to evangelism as we come in contact with people, cultures and lifestyles to which we are unaccustomed. However the time is ripe to spread the Gospel of Christ. Evangelism today will move us into sharing faith with people who have a different faith or no faith, various races, ethnicities and sexual orientations, and those who have limited time and interest. But your story – and THE story – is still the same.

In the African-American religious and social tradition, we have a saying, “You better tell somebody!” My hope is you will have the faith and confidence to tell somebody the story of who Jesus is, what he has done for you, and how others can find this living water. Amen.



The Volunteers of the Food Pantry are very proud and thankful for the new side by side refrigerator/freezer donated to the Pantry by David and Sally Erskine. What a blessing!

Publix delivered a pallet of food to the Pantry in April, another blessing. Thank you Lord. The pallet contained several cases each of: breakfast bars, Pet evaporated milk, fruit, instant potatoes, rice, mac & cheese, tuna, 2 lb. cans of ham, Dinty Moore Stew, soups, green beans, and peanut butter and jelly. I estimate a value of the donated food was between \$800 & \$1,000. That's a whole months budget.

The children will be out of school soon. Those who qualify for meals at school will be eating all their meals at home now. We see an influx of families with school aged children requesting food from May until September. Jobs are more plentiful during these months but this increase of mouths to feed puts a burden on the families. Please remember the Pantry during this time.

Summer means warmer weather. Our hygiene items are very low. We need deodorant, shampoo, lotion, bars of soap, female hygiene items, and shaving cream for the guys.

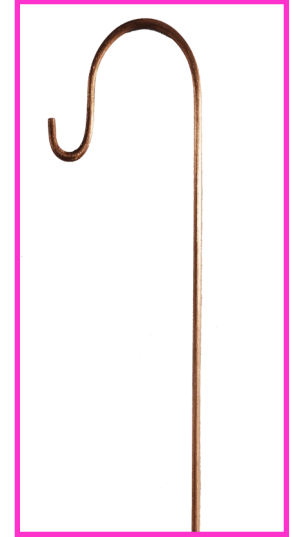
We thank the Erskine's, Publix, and our congregation for their generosity. May the Lord bless all of you and make us each ever mindful of the needy.



# Caring for Each Other

**The SHEPHERDING TEAM is available to you at anytime for member care. Please feel free to call on them.**

Lenny Zacher	850-867-3770	tennis850@aol.com
Wanda Pflugfelder	850-249-3396	reinholdwanda@msn.com
Edna Adams	850-230-2540	ednaadams@comcast.net
Beve Lutz	850-35-7349	meinschaatz406@aol.com
Adrian Wynter	850-691-7529	yoitsadrian@me.com
Tammy Price	615-483-6067	tprice118@hotmail.com
Jim Price	850-830-3612	jbprice0@gmail.com
Linda Coleman	850-890-0161	antiquegeek55@yahoo.com
Ron Coleman	850-890-1172	dirfft.coleman@gmail.com
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Lorraine Gilmore	850-867-5370	lorrainegilmore46@gmail.com
Grace Piano	850-481-3123	



**The "Love Line"** is available for your prayer needs, announcements and celebrations. Just email your requests to Mary Foist at: [myseaclusion@gmail.com](mailto:myseaclusion@gmail.com)



**First Together Fellowship** is dedicated to building relationships, fostering spiritual growth, and providing assistance through socializing, visiting, resource building, loving and caring. Our activities together will seek to deepen our relationship with Christ, each other, and our community. Activities throughout the year will include day trips, concerts, movies, service projects, forum discussions, meals.

*Check out these First Together activities this month:*

**Food, Fun, & Fellowship** meet at **10:00AM every Friday** in the Fellowship Hall

**First Tuesday** is a monthly meal at an area restaurant (dutch-treat). We are having our monthly fellowship supper **at Mike's Café on May 3rd at 4:30PM**. We have a great time talking, laughing, eating, and getting to know one another. Usually about a dozen or so of us meet each month. Come join the fellowship!

## 12 Beach Tidings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00a Sunday School / Choir 10:15a Worship 11:15a Coffee and Donuts  11:30a Potluck	12:30p Food Pantry  5:30p Worship Committee	4:30p First Together Supper  5:30p Mancave at the Pour		Nat'l Day of Pray  7a– Prayer Breakfast @ Grace Pres.  1:00p Caregiver Support Group	10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mother's Day  Men's Choir  9:00a Sunday School / Choir 10:15a Worship 11:15a Coffee and Donuts		12:30p Sara Circle  6:30p A Creative Word	7:00p Jazz Worship	1:00p Caregiver Support Group	10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship	Shepherd's Neighborhood Canvassing
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Pentacost  9:00a Sunday School / Choir 10:15a Worship 11:15a Coffee and Donuts	5:30p Stewardship Committee	9a Presbytry Mtg. St. Andrews-Pres. Church  5:30p Mancave at the Pour		1:00p Caregiver Support Group	10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00a Sunday School / Choir 10:15a Worship 11:15a Coffee and Donuts	6:00p Evening Women's Circle	6:30p A Creative Word		1:00p Caregiver Support Group	10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship	
29	30	31				
9:00a Sunday School / Choir 10:15a Worship 11:15a Coffee and Donuts	Memorial Day  Church Office Closed					

May 2016