

**THE NEWSLETTER OF  
GULF BEACH  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
271 S. HWY. 79  
PANAMA CITY BEACH,  
FL 32413**

Tel: (850) 234-3161

Find us on the Web at:

[www.pinkchurch.org](http://www.pinkchurch.org)

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[gulfbeachpres@gmail.com](mailto:gulfbeachpres@gmail.com)

Liz's email:

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Pastor's Email:

[gbpcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:gbpcpastor@gmail.com)



Vision Statement:

**“Transforming Lives by the Love of Christ Jesus  
through Witness, Mission, and Evangelism.”**

# BEACH TIDINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF GULF BEACH PRESBYTERIAN

**JULY 2015**

**Special points of interest:**

- Summer Picnic
- From the Pastor's Pen
- Ministry updates
- Session Minutes
- Calendar

Articles for the Newsletter can be email to [lizpinkchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:lizpinkchurch@hotmail.com) or leave it in the Newsletter Box in the church office. Articles must be received by the 15th of the month.

Sunday School  
9:00AM

Coffee and  
Donuts  
9:45AM

Sunday  
Worship  
Time  
10:15 AM

## Storm warning

Stop telling God how  
big your storm is;

instead,

tell the storm how big  
your **God** is!

## Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church

### STAFF

**Rev. Bonnie Wilkins**

Pastor/Head of Staff

**Dr. Larry Tyson** –

Music Director

**Norma Davison** -

Accompanist

**Liz Creswell** –

Bookkeeper/  
Admin. Assistant

### SESSION

Tracy Schoppe Clerk of Session

867-5372

schoppepcb@aol.com

Lenny Zacher- 867-3770

tennis850@aol.com

Beve Lutz- Treasurer

235-7349

meinschatz406@aol.com

Ron Coleman-890-1172

dirtft.coleman@gmail.com

Wanda Pflugfelder-

249-3396

Wanda\_griffin@hotmail.com

Jim Price- 850-830-3612

jbprice0@gmail.com

Betsy Balmer- 850-348-2890

aprilfoolb@yahoo.com

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins

870-415-2082

gbpcpastor@gmail.com



## The benefits of nature

As a boy, John Muir memorized the entire New Testament. As an adult, he became one of America's outstanding naturalists. Muir recognized the magic and mystery of God's forests, mountains, streams, waterfalls and animals. He founded the conservation group known as the Sierra Club.

Muir died in 1914, but his books are still widely read. "Every-body needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul," Muir wrote.

This summer, take time to visit a national park, a state park or another wilderness area. The great outdoors is a perfect place to connect with God, as well as to build lasting family memories.



## American independence

John Adams, who became America's second president, was so elated when the United States was about to celebrate independence from England that he wrote:

"It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward, forevermore."

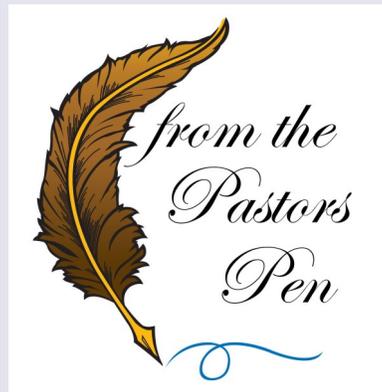


## Summer Sunday Picnics

There will be potluck picnic lunch immediately following services on JULY 5th. The church is providing grilled chicken, beef and pork. Grilled by our own Doug Gilmore. Bring a covered dish to share and come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

Covered dishes can be brought before church and left in the walk-in cooler in Gulf Treat. Food will be set-up in Gulf Treat after worship and you can choose to eat inside or out.





## Part 1: Building Community and Communion— Virtual or Real?

During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples: Take, eat. This is my body. Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, God's new covenant poured out for many people for the forgiveness of sins. 'I'll not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I'll drink with you in the kingdom of my Father.' They sang a hymn and went directly to

Mount Olives. (Matthew 26:26-30, The Message)

I received an email from my friend. She said she wanted me to “like” her new “Facebook” page. If you are not familiar with Facebook—it is a virtual “community” where you set up an account with personal information about yourself/organization, along with photos and other things to know about or say to others. You invite people to associate themselves with your Facebook page and if they accept, they become your virtual “friends.” It gets people connected for a purely social kind of virtual reality relationship.

“Facebook” and other social media platforms like it have changed the way we build relationships and community. We know that over the years, social media has helped (or harmed) our ability to be real with one another. We have found that people have become more and more isolated from face-to-face, flesh-to-flesh relationships with each other because of technology. That’s a problem. Virtual communities are some people’s only connection to community.

What does that mean down the road for real and healthy human community?

Is all this “virtual” reality affecting our ability and our desire to be in real and meaningful person-to-person relationships? Is it affecting our desire to know or care about our real neighbors next door or the strangers all around us? When we lose a sense of community and communion between people, we tend to also lose sight of God’s image in others and in ourselves—a real issue.

Jesus knew that we needed reminding about who we are and whose we are. “This is my body, this is my blood, shed for all of you” he said to us. His words of “take...eat...remember” are words that build real and living communion and community between God and us and one another. These actions grow “us” into a community of love and faith and move us into communion with the real source of life under the new covenant God has made with us thru Christ. Ignoring, denying, or disregarding the holiness of one another as a child of God, as one who carries the image of God in them, breaks down and even destroys real community and communion.

As active and faithful disciples, by the power and grace of God in our best moments, we live a real and whole life—the kind of life Jesus modeled and lived and died for us. In our best moments, God’s love, forgiveness, and compassion pour out of our words and actions as companions in Christ; people who are supported and nurtured by Scripture and our life in this community of faith. This “real” life is the kind of life we want to expose in ourselves to others; the kind of real relationship we want to offer and practice with loved ones and strangers and neighbors.

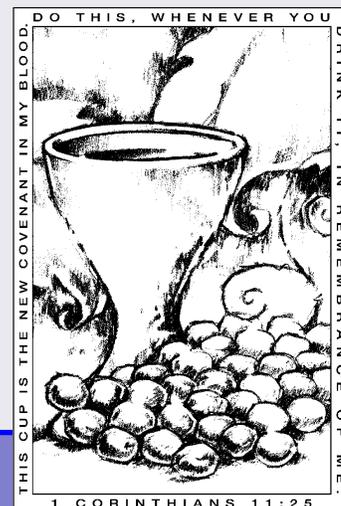
Our new Vision Statement has been put before you: **“Transforming lives by the love of Christ Jesus through witness, mission, and evangelism.”** Over the last few months, the Session and I have been listening and praying about what this new vision will mean to our church’s future and how to live in real, life changing ways as the church for others. This is what has been on our minds as we (Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church) **GET REAL:**

- Elder Ron Coleman –890-1172 and the Shepherding Team have begun to establish goals and objectives to **help** the church move forward through a commitment to evangelism as we reach out to others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and build a real relationship with them.
- Elder Beve Lutz –235-7349 and I have begun thinking about what other outreach opportunities can be set in motion for the congregation to engage in through new ministries of compassion that touch lives in real ways.
- Elder Wanda Pflugfelder –249-3396 has been leading the new Care Giver Support Group, supporting the organization of the Media Team, and planning for a fall art and music festival to make meaningful and real connections in our community and neighborhood.
- Elder Jim Price-850-830-3612 has been coordinating the VBS planning, researching property sale issues, and looking at our Christian Education needs and goals so that we are tooled-up and resourced to do the real mission of the church now and into the future.
- Elder Lenny Zacher-867-3770 has been working with and building a relationship with our new “neighbors,” the Church of the Nazarene congregation, that is leasing the Chapel. We hope to see this relationship grow into real ministry together for our neighborhood.
- Elders Betsy Balmer-850-348-2890 and Tracy Shoppe –867-5372 are planning our Stewardship Campaign so that we will be ready to support and give to new ministries, activities, and partnerships that build real community and bring real transformation in people’s lives.
- I have been building relationships and connections with other churches, pastors, and organizations in our community and Presbytery so that we can learn from them, support and be supported, and move forward together in community and communion with the real mission of the church—making disciples of Jesus Christ.

All of this and much more is being done through planning, action, and prayer so that we will be in focus with the new Vision for our church. If you would like to get involved with one of these ministries or have ideas that you would like to share please contact the elder leading the ministry or Pastor Bonnie-870-415-2082. God is getting “real” in our lives and ministry. How about yours? Is your relationship with Jesus and your commitment to His Church the real or the virtual kind? Let his words make it real for you, **“Take...eat...do this in remembrance of me”.**

In Christ’s love and service,

*Pastor Bonnie*





# VBS

July 20-22, 2015 from  
4pm-6pm. Monday-  
Wednesday.

Thursday, July 23 is a  
family fun dinner from  
6pm-7:30pm.

## Camp Discovery

The theme is Camp Discovery.

Jesus at work through us!

We are still looking for volunteers  
and we need camping gear and  
Christmas trees for decorations.

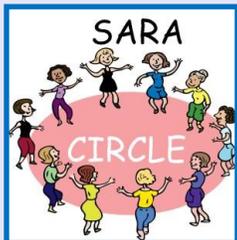
CONTACT :Jim Price 850-830-3612  
if you can volunteer or have dona-  
tions for VBS.



# Ministry News



The Men's ministry will taking a break until OCTOBER.



## To all the women of the church

Sara Circle will meet this fall season one month earlier, on August 5th, 9:00 to 11:30, for a annual planning meeting. We will reconvene at Mike's for lunch following the planning session. Newly elected officers of Sara Circle are: President, Wanda Pflugflender; Secretary: Tammy Price; Treasurer: Beve Lutz.

## Rummage Sale Reminder

When you are cleaning out your garage, closets, etc. this summer remember the Sara Circle Rummage Sale. Sara Circle will be happy take those old items of yours any time. We have a special storage room designed for that purpose. All monies generated at our Rummage goes to help finance major Church building repairs and upkeep, send our children to Church camp, and support the Thornwell Children's home. We appreciate all the rummage you give us.



## The monthly Spruce up Day at the Church.

will be the third (3rd) Sunday of every month (July 19th) after 10:15 service, from 12:00-2:00 PM. Bring work clothes and work gloves.

Pizza will be provided. Bring your own beverage.

Let's work together to take care of God's House!



## CAREGIVER SUPPORT

We meet every Thursday at 1:00PM in Gulf Treat.

There is a vast amount of knowledge available to caregivers and we are striving to share information and love with these folks as they journey to care for a loved one. Do you know someone who would benefit from this support group? Please tell them about our meetings, or better yet bring them to a meeting. They may be more comfortable with you there. Reach out your hand in Christian Love.

## FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry's mission is to increase access to food for hungry people, and empower them to help each other.

Report from Food Pantry- May 2015 our food pantry served 216 people a total of 1944 meals.

**Needs: Canned Chili, Peanut Butter and children's snack crackers**

# Caring for Each Other



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

John Skelton 706-436-4288 [ratpack219@gmail.com](mailto:ratpack219@gmail.com)

Lenny Zacher 850-867-3770 [tennis850@ail.com](mailto:tennis850@ail.com)

Wanda Pflugfelder 850-249-3396 [reinholdwanda@misn.com](mailto:reinholdwanda@misn.com)

Edna Adams 850-230-2540 [ednaadams@comcast.net](mailto:ednaadams@comcast.net)

Beve Lutz 850-35-7349 [meinschaatz406@aol.com](mailto:meinschaatz406@aol.com)

Adrian Wynter 850-691-7529 [yoitsadrian@me.com](mailto:yoitsadrian@me.com)

Tammy Price 615-483-6067 [tprice118@hotmail.com](mailto:tprice118@hotmail.com)

Jim Price 850-830-3612 [jbprice0@gmail.com](mailto:jbprice0@gmail.com)

Linda Coleman 850-890-0161 [antiquegeek55@yahoo.com](mailto:antiquegeek55@yahoo.com)

Ron Coleman 850-890-1172 [dirtft.coleman@gmail.com](mailto:dirtft.coleman@gmail.com)

Suzanne Burke 850-867-5371 [suzannegilmoreburke@gmail.com](mailto:suzannegilmoreburke@gmail.com)

Lorraine Gilmore 850-867-5370 [lorrainegilmore46@gmail.com](mailto:lorrainegilmore46@gmail.com)

## First Together



A new ministry at Gulf Beach Pres. 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, "Food, Fun, & Fellowship" (10 a.m. every Friday in the Fellowship Hall) and "First Tuesday" (monthly lunch at area restaurants-dutch treat). Mark your calendar and join Pastor Bonnie on July 7th for "First Tuesday" monthly lunch at Salty Sue's at Noon.



**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)



**We are so blessed to have new "neighbors" in Christ!** The Church of the Nazarene is leasing the Chapel and one of the efficiency units from us. This is a new Spanish speaking congregation on the beach. They are currently worshipping on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. They will be hosting an open house with an opening worship celebration for the community in the weeks to come. Our congregation has already been invited to attend!

Lenny and Pastor Bonnie are currently the liaisons between their congregation and ours. We hope to have opportunities to share in special times of worship, fellowship, and service together in the future. You are invited to worship with them anytime. They have a contemporary band that provides music and worship leadership for their services. We wish God's blessing on this church as they reach out in a new way to our community, sharing the Gospel and building the Kingdom for Christ.

# Gulf Beach Presbyterian Stated Session Minutes

## May 11, 2015 5:30pm

### Call to Meeting and Opening Prayer

- Rev. Wilkins opened the meeting with an article titled, 8 Reasons Churches Who Want to Grow End up Staying Small by Carey Niewhof and prayer.

### Moderator's Report

- Rev. Wilkins has initiated a new program called, First Together. We will meet, the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, for lunch, movies, lecture, exhibits, etc.
- A motion was made to approve with changes the *Christian Mission of Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church*.
- The Session is aware of and understands the changes to the Book of Order that will be adopted in June 2015. The Session will set a time in the near future to discuss how these changes affect GBPC and set policy for GBPC regarding the changes.

### Treasurer's Report

- For the month ending April 30, 2015 GBPC recorded net loss of \$3,872.49. The total income was \$11,180; \$8,950 regular givers, \$805 loose plate, \$1,400 in rental income, interest income \$23. The general operating expense was \$5,492. The payroll expense was \$9,205.
- In the month of April, the long term debt of GBPC was reduced by \$3,516, leaving a mortgage balance of \$462,598.
- For YTD 2015 as of April 30, 2015: income was \$61,065.49, operating expenses were \$29,082.91 and payroll expenses were \$36,066.49. Year-to-date net loss is \$4,083.91. Year-to-date, the long-term debt has been reduced by \$14,155.

### Committee Reports

- **Ministry of Worship** -Fellowship time will be changed from following worship service to the time between Sunday School and Worship Service, 9:45 – 10:15.
- **Ministry of Compassion** -Food pantry report April 2015 our food pantry served 145 people a total of 1305 meals. We received cash donations of \$892 while we purchased \$880 in groceries.
- **Ministry of Building and Grounds** -The chairman met with a group that is starting a Church of Nazarene on the beach. This group is looking for space to hold their services.

### Old Business:

- On April 30, 2015, a meeting was held with our Realtor and interested members of the church. Andy Gonsalves with Counts Realty has represented GBPC as our realtor since January 2014. . In August 2014, at the recommendation of Counts, Session lowered the asking price to \$990,000. His recommendation is, if the Session decision is to continue listing the current parcel, we should either lower the price or if we are firm on our price, wait for the inventory on the beach to be reduced.

### New Business

- **Fall Music and Art Fest** -Rev. Wilkins proposed GBPC host a Music and Art Fest similar to the one we hosted in the fall of 2013. The Session supports this idea and will make the space available for it to take place.

**Next stated session meeting will be on June 8, 2015 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall.**



## July 2015

**Our God is visionary...**and He is walking with us and has a radical vision that pulls us forward and advances His Kingdom. (2015 GBPC Session Retreat)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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- July Anniversaries**
- 5- Roger & Dianne Coons
  - 9- Jim & Joan Lott
  - 15- Ron and Linda Coleman

- July Birthdays**
- 1- Terry Belluscio
  - Jean Staffen
  - 11- Bob Lutz

- 23- Harry Howell
- 26- Tracy Schoppe
- 27- Graham Segrest
- 31- J. D. Schoppe

