

Firs Word



January, 2012

Epiphany of the Lord



Friday, January 6, 2012
@ 5:30 PM

Burning of the Greens

Burning of the Greens begins at 5:30 PM. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy this special service!

Lite supper following the Burning of the Greens service. Dogs and beans will be provided.



Deacons gift bags

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Rev. John W. Caster

January, 2012

PASTOR'S COLUMN-JANUARY, 2012, FPC,
ZEPHYRHILLS, FL
By John M. Harris

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As most of you are aware, I have been off work for several weeks. On November 26 I suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized. Now I am at home recuperating. I expect to return to work sometime within the next few weeks, at a date yet to be determined by my doctor.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and support during my illness and continuing recovery. Your support for Lynda and me and our son Donald has been very much appreciated. Your prayers and love have been amazing and we thank you for all you have done.

I look forward to returning to active ministry with you as soon as I am able. In the meantime, my thanks to Rev. John Harris for being willing to fill in as needed. May God bless each of you as we begin a new year together.

Faithfully,

John



Happy New Year!!! With your pastor still recovering I realize this is his place, but I have the opportunity to fill in for him. I am sure this would be his desire as well—for each of you individually and for the entire church and its various ministries.

Liturgically we have left Advent behind and now find ourselves in the midst of Christmastide with Epiphany fast approaching. In the tradition of the Wise Men we have found Him, at Bethlehem, and are still waiting for His return. It is the nature of our faith to live with Him in the present and wait for His return in all of its Glory. It is this concept of “waiting” that I present to you in this column.

In Something Is About To Happen, Presbyterian preacher and theologian Tom Long has called our attention to the two kinds of “waiting” as identified by Jesuit priest William F. Lynch: (1) “there is nothing else to do” and (2) engagement in hopeful waiting.

Nothing else to do is passive, boredom, uninvolved, and fatalistic. Engaged waiting is Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem, Pete and Marie purchasing a crib before their expected baby arrives, parents carefully monitoring the soon-to-be-licensed teenage driver, or an arduous internship by the newly graduated medical student.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find some dates recently approved by our Session concerning congregational meetings and some training sessions. Give careful attention. They are an illustration of what the Jesuit priest, Presbyterian preacher and this Temporary Supply Pastor might call “engaged waiting.” The same meaning can be given to our church as we enter the new calendar year, schedule key events, and await the return of a recovering pastor.

Peace and Joy to all of you.

John M. Harris, Temporary Supply



From the Desk of the Moderator

Lynda Caster, Moderator

WOW! 2011 already! That's how I started my newsletter article last year and I have to repeat *WOW!* – 2011 was quite a year.

A BIG thank you to my officers (Joyce McDonough, Maggie Andersen, Sharon Harmsen, Kay Haas, Harriet Headworth, and Mardell Franke) for their support this past year. Each of them, along with others, stepped up to take my place and plan many of our events so that the work of the Presbyterian Women could continue.

Our gathering in January will be a salad bar luncheon January 17, 2012 in the Fellowship Hall. So make your favorite salad and come share fellowship. This will be the time when we will bring in panties and socks and books for the children at the Lachoochee School. All are invited!

The 50th Anniversary Cookbook is still available. It will delight any cook, no matter what his or her skill level in the kitchen is. The cookbooks are available for sale after worship service in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10.00. Proceeds from the sale will help offset the cost to those women wishing to attend the Churchwide Gathering.

On February 18, 2012, we will host the Annual Meeting of the Presbyterian Women of Tampa Bay Presbytery.

Our circles continue to meet to study *Confessing the Beatitudes*. Please join us at

either or both circle meetings; 10:00 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month.

The Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held in Orlando from July 18 through July 22, 2012. The registration booklet and scholarship application can be downloaded at

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pwgathering>.

Online registration has begun or you can mail your registration. If you would like more information or plan to go, please talk with Lynda Caster.

May 2012 have a blessed and happy New Year,

Lynda Caster, Moderator



Called Congregational meeting, Sunday, January 8 for election of Elders and Deacons

Elder/Deacon Planning scheduled for Saturday January 14, 2012 from 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM.

Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons on Sunday, January 15 during Worship

Annual Congregational meeting, Sunday, January 29 at 4:30 PM

Single Seniors

The Single Seniors went to the Christmas Show at Word of Life in Hudson. The food was great and the show was beautifully done. We will be going to the Easter show in March. Tickets need to be ordered and paid for in advance. Come join us. The meetings for January will be the 8th and the 22nd in the Quiet Room at 11:30 a.m.

Audrell Howard



Not busy on Saturday, January 7 at 8:30 AM? We need help and the more we get the less time it will take to take down all the beautiful Christmas Decorations! Please call Mardell Franke if you are able to help! 788-2231

Supper Club

Supper Club to meet on ***Saturday, January 14 at 5:00 PM at Harold's Seltzer Steakhouse.*** It is located at 9409 US Highway 19 in Port Richey, FL.

RSVP to Sue Reffit (783-1299) by Noon on Thursday, January 12



Bright Spirits Team

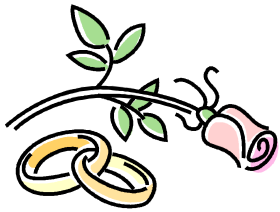
Our *Bright Spirits Team* worked hard during 2011 to provide coffee and treats after worship services. However, our team is experiencing fatigue and some members need some time off because they are working for the church in other ways. Our Team is in desperate need of NEW MEMBERS and HELPERS. Please see Lynda Caster to volunteer either as a Team Member or sign up on Team's Signup Sheet in the fellowship hall. Thank you. Lynda Caster



Happy Birthday



01	Rollen Swink	16	Jane Stickwood	26	Sandra Pricher
03	Lee Myers	17	Robyn Kirk	27	Philip Edwards
09	Wilma Klak	18	Pat Garlick	27	Martha McLaughlin
11	Ginny Goldsworthy	18	Katy Neiswender	27	Pauline Schrottenboer
14	Marcy Miller	22	Lynda Caster	27	Linda Carillon
14	Frank Hayba	23	Jan Jackson	31	Jeanne Hague
15	Rosalyn Pugh	25	Grace Huntley	31	Joanne Robertson
15	Shirley Hilbrandt	25	Wilma DeMaagd	31	Porter Stanford
16	Ellen Lamoreaux				



Happy Anniversary



02	Ray and Janice Chambers	12 Years
06	Rick and Rosanne Vogel	50 Years
28	Tom and Becky Todd	45 Years
29	Rev. John and Lynda Caster	42 Years
30	Vernon and Joann Beardslee	58 Years



Helen S. Edwards



September 21, 1922

December 13, 2011

News from the Deacons

In December, 71 households received bags of food and other items from the food Pantry; 10 were new. Thank you for the Peanut Butter and Jelly that we requested in December. For January we are asking for 18 oz boxes of cereal and 15-16oz cans of fruit. We appreciate any support you are willing to give the Food pantry. For Christmas 7 families in the neighborhood received a ham and all the fixings for a Christmas dinner. We thank all of you who took Bells from the Bell tree for clothing and gifts for these children shoes and underwear was also provided. A new testament bible was included in each of the boxes Please let us know if as members of this church we Deacons can help you in any way. Your Deacons

