

Gulf Beach

Presbyterian Church

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Sunday Mornings @ Gulf Beach

Summer Coffee and Conversation	9:00AM
Worship	10:15AM
Coffee and Donuts	11:15AM

Jazz for the Soul Worship

2nd Wed./ month at 7PM—Gulftreat

Beach Tidings



August 2016

From the Pastor's Pen

Navigating Through Life— Are you looking for a sign?

“I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good we may do for Christ.”

—Philemon 6

When I go somewhere the first time I use maps and directions, looking for the streets by name and highways by number. I'll closely follow those directions, the first time. But from then on I navigate by a different way. Even while I'm following direction the first time, I'm also observing the landmarks and unique signs along the way. I guess I'm a very visual person. I've always preferred pictures over words. Come to think about it, I've always used images to remember things. As I travel I create a visual map in my head of the places I've been and I find, even years later, I can find my way back to these places without remembering street names and numbers.

That works as long as things don't change to drastically. If the building that I remember turning right at gets torn down or a landmark disappears, I might wander for a bit or end up looking up the directions once again. For instance, I take the same route to a friend's house here on the beach every time I visit her. The houses look pretty much the same in her neighborhood. So, I find myself looking for a particular lawn ornament in her neighbor's yard to remind me, “This is the place.” I couldn't tell you her house number, but I knew to turn right after that lawn ornament! The other day, it was gone and I drove right by her house.

How do you get around? What do you navigate by as you find your way through life? Whose directions do you follow? What are the signs and landmarks that guide you and let you know where you are or need to be? Our prayer and discernment, through eyes of faith, help us to “perceive” where we are, where we need to be, and what we need to be doing.

(continued on next page)

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

Looking through faith helps us to see or “perceive” what God sees as good and possible and needed in and through us.

We don't always get a clearly defined and mapped-out description of these things though. That's when I find myself looking for landmarks and signs that we're on the right path or headed in the right direction. How often do you stop and look for God's signs along the way?

When I think about our life together and wonder if we are doing what God want us to do and wonder where we are spiritually as a church, I start looking for the telling signs and landmarks in how we are sharing our faith and giving our lives to others. I see them. Do you?

What do you “see” when you look at our life together as a church? Take some time this month to “perceive all the good we may do for Christ.” Look, listen, talk about it with each other, pray about it. Look for the signs and landmarks from the Lord which will show you the way to go. Here are some inspirational words from Max Lucado to take on this journey: *Trust your faith and not your feelings....Measure your value through God's eyes, not your own....See the big picture, not the small one alone.*

In Christ's service,

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins



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Moderator of Session, Pastor



Sunday Morning Flowers Given for the Month of July

3-In honor of Ann Grays
Birthday

10-The flowers are given today by Ron and Wanda Pflugfelder in memory of their parents

17- The flowers are given today by the congregation to the glory of God

24-The flowers are given today by Doug and Lorraine Gilmore In celebration of the birthday of Tracy Schoppe

31- The flowers are given today by the Shoppe's in celebration of J.D.'s Birthday.

Sunday Morning Flowers: Please sign-up on the flower chart in the Fellowship Hall, if you would like to have an arrangement donated in honor/memory of someone, or for a special occasion. Envelopes are on the flower sign-up chart. Weekly arrangements are \$30. Checks made payable to the church.

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

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. Thank you!

—Tari Sale, Newsletter Editor

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.

“Love My Neighbor” Mission Group

Are you interested in doing more to answer God’s call to move out of the comfort of the walls of our church and homes and into the lives of our “neighbors” in real and committed ways? This group will help you develop skills and opportunities to form authentic relationships, friendships, and community as we find fulfillment in obeying Christ’s command, “...love your neighbor as yourself.” We will work at understanding Jesus’ command to “Love your neighbor...” as a disciple and a church. We will identify new ways and places to be a “neighbor” through relationship building and serving others.



This group will meet the 4th Tues./month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (beginning Aug. 23rd) and for “Love My Neighbor” (LMN) opportunities as scheduled and announced by the group. Group will be facilitated by Rev. Bonnie Wilkins.

“Personal Evangelism for Ordinary People”

Grace Presbyterian Church, Panama City, invites you to hear Chris Walker, PC(USA) ordained pastor, share how evangelism has become a normal part of his life at “Personal Evangelism for Ordinary People” Learn how you can tap into the power of the Holy Spirit for more effective gospel sharing conversations! Chris has provided evangelism leadership not only in the U.S., but also Central and South America. Currently, he serves as Pioneer Faculty for Missions and Evangelism in the Americas with Dunamis Institute, a ministry of Presbyterian Reformed Ministries International. Learn more at www.evangelismcoach.org.

Where: Grace Presbyterian Church, 1415 Airport Road, Panama City, FL

When: **Saturday, August 27, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.** CDT; Catered lunch by reservation.

Church Mice



A Dose of Truth with a Dash of Humor



Our Daily Bread for KIDS

Kids Can Make a Difference



There are many kings in the Bible— some were good, and others were bad. The Bible tells us that King Josiah was one of the best. He did what was right in the eyes of God.

The Bible says something very interesting about Josiah. Are you ready for this? He was only eight year old when he became king! Josiah had some adult helpers, of course, but he was the leader.

Some of the kings before Josiah were evil, and God's people began worshipping other gods which weren't even real. Josiah knew that was wrong! So when he was twenty-six years old he destroyed all the places where people worshipped other gods. He got rid of the statues of the fake gods the people had made. Josiah took away everything else the Lord hated in the land. That was a big job for a young king, but he did it because he loved God, and he wanted the people to love God too.

Have you ever thought you're too young to make a difference? That's not true. There are many things kids can do to serve God. Maybe you could be a friend to a lonely kid at school or in your neighborhood. Maybe you could invite other kids to church or Sunday School so they can learn more about God. By being a good friend, you can make a difference in another person's life.

There was no king like Josiah either before him or after him. None of them turned to the LORD with all his heart and all his soul. He followed him with all his strength. He did everything the Law of Moses required.. — 2 Kings 23:25

With God's help, you can make a difference—even if you're not a king!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I can make a difference no matter how old I am.



"Before I tell you what happened, Mom, remember...The Lord will never give you more than you can handle."

Ministry News

Evening Women's Circle meet for a shared meal and bible study the *0th Monday of each month at 2:66p. See you on August 22nd* Led by Elder Betsy Balmer.



Jazz for the Soul—August 10th @ 7 p.m.

Come and worship with us every *8nd Wed. of the month at 3:66p* in Gulf treat. 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 - Will **not** meet in August: will resume once a month starting in September.

Mancave meets 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).

Community Yard Sale

Gulf Beach Presbyterian church will hold its second annual community yard sale and bake sale on Saturday, September 17th from 7:00- 12:00 Bake your favorite goodies for us to sell or reserve a table to clean out your treasures. Cost for a space is \$10.00 and if you want to rent a table, it is an extra \$5.00. Invite your friends and neighbors. Reserve your space by sending your name, phone number and your check to Gulf Beach Presbyterian. If you have questions, call Betsy Balmer 348-2890.

August Birthdays

- 4-John McClung
- 6-Tom Creekmore
- 7-Ann Offord
- 9-Audrey Birkliid
- 18-Karen Ferguson
- 20-Nathan Schoppe
- Ken Waringa



August Anniversaries

- 13-Bob & Bev Lutz
- 14-Jimmy & Paige Wiselogel
- Thaddeus & Bonnie Wilkins
- 15-Sonny & Edith Doherty
- 20-Karl & Linda Wiselogel
- 21-Jim & Darlene Dilamarter
- 25-John & Betty Brydon

Please let us celebrate with you! Let the Church know about your Birthday and/or Anniversary.



My Christian Walk...*from Angels Are for Real*

For most of my life, I found it easier to just make an “appearance” in my faith. I would show up at church occasionally just because it was the “right” thing to do. After all, I wanted my kids to grow up with good morals, and the church would certainly provide that. My prayers were said just in case someone really was listening. They were always “me” prayers focused on making my life better. I was a spiritual chameleon, having the ability to change colors according to the people I was associating with at the time. Because I lived the life of a nominal Christian, I quietly doubted the true power of God’s Salvation.

I have always prayed during my life. I never knew if I was doing it right, but always found some solace in spending time talking to God. As I became an adult, I was respectful of the church and usually went during the special times of the year, but never had the discipline or desire to take a Christian life seriously. I knew good people went to church, and I wanted to be a good person. When I did attend church, I would look at all the other people and think that there is no way I could measure up to their standards. I went through stages where I worked so hard to be completely sinless, and would become very discouraged every time I failed. Most of my life I have thought that the path to Heaven was through being sinless and good. Faith, Grace, Forgiveness, and Love were only words to me that sounded nice. I had no idea that they were the foundation of a relationship with Jesus.

In 1996, after my family and I moved to Indianapolis, I found myself drawn to church more often. There was something in me that strongly told me we should expose my children to a church environment. I found the size of a mega church a bit easier to sneak in and out without anyone approaching me with expectations. From 1996 to 2003, I was a church attendee.

On April 28, 2003, the spiritual roller-coaster began for me when my youngest son, Gabriel, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. I was scared to death with the thought that my son was battling cancer, and I felt the need to find something more significant in this world than my own strength to help me cope with it. The following Sunday after the sermon, I approached the young associate pastor and blurted out, “Pastor, I just found out my son has cancer and I don’t know what to do.” His face turned white, he stared at me with a blank look, and then said, “I’ll pray for you,” as he turned to speak to the next person in line. “That’s it?”— pray for me, I thought. All of a sudden when I needed spiritual guidance, I got snubbed.

The next few years my church attendance lessened. Honestly, I felt a bit cheated by the whole Christian thing. In September of 2004, Gabe’s cancer came back with a vengeance. We were told that his treatment was going to have to become much more aggressive and the current statistics of survival dropped. One day, after his relapse, I found myself at home alone. I reluctantly decided to turn to the church again, and picked up the phone to call the same mega church. Within an hour of my initial call, the new Senior Pastor had called me back. We talked for about an hour on the phone about life and death, Heaven and hell, and fatherhood.

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(My Christian Walk...from Angels Are for Real..... Cont.)

The next day the Pastor, Derek Duncan, called me and said he had a break in the schedule, and was hoping to come by our home to visit. Gabe was asleep, worn out from the most recent treatment, and the other boys were not home, so he spoke to Michelle and me. I think that was the day I first realized God's love through another human being. I now know that God has flooded me with His love all my life, but I realized that day that the Pastor was the vehicle for God to shower me with a Love that was different.

A Congregational Meeting was held on July 3, 2016

The following members were elected to serve for a one-year Nominating Committee: Bob Lemken-Session Representative, Lenny Zacher-Session Representative, Dave Balmer-member at large, Rebecca Stevens-member at large, Janie Thomas-member at large, Christine Waring-member at large, alternate.

The parcel of property that was under contract sold . The mortgage and closing costs were paid from this, resulting in a net profit of \$170,000.



**25th Season of "The Church and the Arts"
Concert Series**

We are very pleased and excited to announce the 25th Season of "The Church and the Arts" Concert Series during the months of January and February, 2017. This year's featured concert is the Vienna Boys Choir. This will be their third concert season with us, last with us in 2010. They will be performing on Friday, February 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will go on sale later this summer. Help us get the word out now!

The concert series planning team is also scheduling a number of other artists and groups, including one of our favorites, David Searing. There will be a wide range of musical styles including classical, jazz, pop, and contemporary. We are also working with Helen Balance at Beach Art Group to have several art shows by local artists during the series.

Winter Concert Series

The Concert Series Planning Team will meet on Wed., August 24th from 6-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue to meet the 4th Wed./month as we plan for this event. We have several groups, including David Searing and the Vienna Boys Choir committed to performing. We need your help and input as we plan and prepare for the 2017 Concert Series, this coming January and February. All levels of participation are needed and welcomed on this team. This is a gift to our community and a major fundraiser for the church. Come and help us "sing a new song to the Lord." Questions? Talk to Elder Lenny Zacher, Elder Tari Sale, or Rev. Bonnie Wilkins

How to Help Our Church Impact the Community

1. Everyone is a minister

In our church, everyone is a minister. We believe in the priesthood of all believers. The real ministry of the church is everyone's calling. The paid staff are merely trainers and encouragers to those who actually "shine the light."

2. Everyone is a seed planter

You have a role in spreading the Good News. It's not your job to convert anyone. You are simply called to plant and nurture seeds of faith—God does the converting. The Apostle Paul explained our roles in 1 Corinthians: "I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow."

3. Everyone needs training and practice

We all need practical help to be natural faith conversationalists. How do you engage your friends and family in meaningful and non-judgmental conversations that include faith? Find safe and encouraging opportunities to practice talking about your faith- in church, Sunday school, with close family and friends. We all need to celebrate those experiences and opportunities you have had in sharing your faith. Find time to share your faith-sharing stories with others in your church. We need the encouragement! It helps us to be motivated and committed when we hear how God is working through ordinary people just like you!

Giving Thanks in the PC(USA)

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it". -Psalm 118:24 (ESV)

We all look forward to celebrations. They often cause us to reflect on the past and to recognize just how far we've come in this journey called life. Throughout the Bible we read about celebrations of gratitude for God's blessing. As Presbyterians we have a lot to remember and to celebrate. Last month at the 222nd General Assembly (2016) the church celebrated two historic events—electing two women as co-moderators for the first time and electing the first African American as the PC(USA)'s new Stated Clerk, the highest ecclesiastical office in the 1.5-million-member denomination. We remember those pioneering women who blazed a trail and made it possible for us to celebrate the 60th anniversary of women serving as pastors, 85th anniversary as ruling elders and 110th anniversary as deacons within the denomination. Remember and give thanks for all the faithful who have walked with you on your journey and to celebrate all of the positive ministries within Presbyterian churches across the nation.

Paying Our Per Capita

By PC(USA), Louisville

One of the most well-known notions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is our connectionalism. In addition to our connection through our polity and through our commitment to the gospel and relationship with the Trinity, one of the other things that binds Presbyterians is per capita, that universal funding source drawn from the whole church in order to support the whole church.

It is the glue that unites us, allowing Presbyterians to connect with one another and govern ourselves for the good of the body. And in this current season there is perhaps no better example of per capita at work than the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), took place June 18–25 in Portland, Oregon.

Per capita—presently \$7.12 per individual church member—literally pays for the biennial gathering. Travel, lodging, and meals for advisory delegates and assembly commissioners, half of whom are ruling elders, are covered by per capita dollars. That’s no small price tag.

Why place such importance on per capita and the way it is used? Because Presbyterians believe we discern best what God is calling us to do when we gather as mid councils, seeking together to find and represent the will of Christ (*Book of Order*, F-3.0204). Per capita allows us to do that, to make the table more accessible so that all can join.

Per capita makes the table more accessible so all have a seat.

In fact, nearly everything the Office of the General Assembly does, from identifying and developing leadership for the PC(USA) to maintaining judicial and legislative services for the denomination, comes from per capita. Let us also not forget the critical work of partnering with presbyteries and synods in the work of the church.

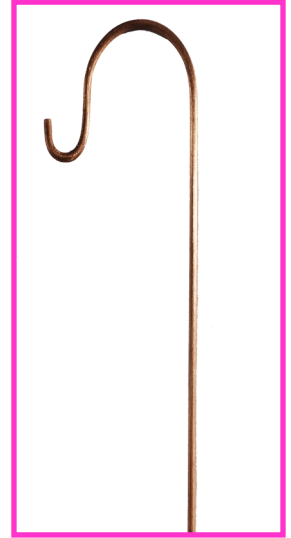
In case you were wondering, per capita is not a new concept. In fact, apportionments like per capita date as far back in the denomination as the early 1800s, when it was collected so Presbyterians from the fringes of the emerging United States could easily attend corporate gatherings in the epicenter of the Presbyterian world at the time—Philadelphia. Did I also mention that per capita dollars now help fund the work of the Presbyterian Historical Society in “The City of Brotherly Love”?

The annual per capita amount is a combined request from a congregation’s presbytery, synod, and the General Assembly—based on their respective budgets for the coming year. A presbytery’s per capita rate depends on its geographical location and size, its mission needs, and the needs of the respective synod.

Caring for Each Other

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

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Lorraine Gilmore	850-867-5370	lorrainegilmore46@gmail.com
Grace Piano	850-481-3123	



Mary's "Love Line" is available for your prayer needs, announcements, and celebrations. Just email your requests to Mary Foist at: 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 Diner 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!

Monthly Potluck is now the **Last** Sunday of the month at 11:30, following worship.
Join us on Sunday: August 28th

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	12:30p Food Pantry Mtg. 5:30p Worship Committee	4:30p First Together Supper @ Mike's 5:30p Mancave at the Pour	10-noon Roman's Bible Study		10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00a Coffee & Conversation 10:15a Worship 11:15a Coffee and Donuts	5:30p Session		10-noon Roman's Bible Study 7:00p Jazz Worship	8:30-noon Adult Day Away 11:15p-noon Caregiver Support Group	10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00a Coffee & Conversation 10:15a Worship 11:15a Coffee and Donuts	W.I.C Clinic@ Gulfstream 8a-4p 5:30p Stewardship Committee	5:30p Mancave at the Pour		8:30-noon Adult Day Away 11:15p-noon Caregiver Support Group	10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00a Coffee & Conversation 10:15a Worship 11:15a Coffee and Donuts	6:00p Evening Women's Circle	6:30 Love My Neighbor	10-noon Roman's Bible Study 6p-7p Concert Series Planning	8:30-noon Adult Day Away 11:15p-noon Caregiver Support Group	10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship	
28	29	30	31			
9:00a Coffee & Conversation 10:15a Worship 11:15a Coffee and Donuts 11:30a Potluck			10-noon Roman's Bible Study	August 2016		