

**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
Church Email:
gulfbeachpres@gmail.com
Liz's email:
lizpinkchurch@hotmail.com
Pastor's Email:
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

OCTOBER 2015

Special points of interest:

- Fall Cover dish Picnic
- Journey of Faith, continued
- From the Pastor's Pen
- Ministry update
- Calendar

Articles for the Newsletter can be email to lizpink-church@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

Fall Sunday Picnics

There will be potluck picnic lunch immediately following services on October 4th. We are giving Doug Gilmore a break this month. Lunch will be covered dish only. 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.

Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins
Pastor/Head of Staff

STAFF

Amanda Matthews-
Accompanist/ Choir Director

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– **Moderator**
870-415-2082
gbpcpas-
tor@gmail.com



JOURNEY OF FAITH continued

START OF WORLD WAR II

BACKGROUND:

I was born and raised in Germany in 1937, while Hitler was in power. World War II had started for Germany in 1939. The Nazis had taken over all of Germany and were running not only the government but all aspects of our society. During the course of this war we were living in Gottwollshausen, a small village in Southern Germany on the outskirts of Schwaebisch Hall, near Stuttgart.

LIVING UNDER HITLER'S DICTATORSHIP:

The early events (from 1938 to 1942) leading up to this war are beyond my recollection since I was only five years old in 1942. But these early events, including the annexation of Austria into the Reich in early 1938, the takeover of Czechoslovakia in the fall of 1938, followed by the invasion of Poland in September 1939, are of crucial importance in the story of the war; and therefore, I have included them in my story. In the spring of 1938, after he had "liberated" Austria, Hitler answered some of his critics with this defense: *"Certain foreign newspapers have said that we fell on Austria with brutal methods. I can only say: even in death they cannot stop lying. I have in the course of my political struggle won much love from my people, but when I crossed the former frontier into Austria there met me such a stream of love, as I have never experienced. Not as tyrants have we come but as liberators!"*

Another newspaper article stated that Hitler was filled with a sense of God-given mission. He went on to say: *"The annexation of Austria into the German Reich in three days' time was only made possible through the fulfillment of God's will."*

Mama said, "What a hypocrite! Now he suddenly worships God when it suits his purpose, while his actions throughout his whole life showed that he is, in fact, a ruthless tyrant and atheist." My parents were secretly wondering if perhaps he was the Antichrist!

The annexation of Austria was followed by the takeover of Czechoslovakia, under the pretense that the Czech Government was oppressing the Germans residing in Czechoslovakia. The Czech President Benes wanted to avoid war at all costs. He offered that Hitler should write out his demands and he would comply unconditionally. In spite of these offers, Hitler broke off all negotiations and ordered seven divisions to invade Czechoslovakia on October 1, 1938. Under this pressure Czech President Benes resigned and fled to England, and his country was forced to install a pro-German government. Thus a prosperous nation was destroyed and bankrupted overnight without any bloodshed.

Mama observed that Hitler had taken over a second European country through his diplomacy of bullying and blunt threats and his use of smoke and mirrors. But Mama reminded us that the ultimate victory

will belong to God Almighty, who is more powerful and intelligent than our illustrious dictator. We must have faith in God no matter what! -- With our Dad gone off to fight the Russians, Mama had to bear the whole burden of raising us three boys, keeping our faith intact with her periodic lectures.

Poland was next in line for Hitler's string of conquests. In his speech to the Reichstag (Nazi equivalent of Parliament) in early 1939 Hitler spoke about the warm friendship between Germany and Poland, while in late 1938 he had already ordered preparations to be made for the surprise occupation of city of Danzig. By May 1939 Germany was well along the road of preparing the attack on Poland. The great military factories were mass-producing rifles, machine guns, tanks, airplanes and warships. Seven million men were drafted into the army. Before the invasion of Poland could begin, however, Hitler felt compelled to sign a non-aggression pact with Russia. In September 1939 the German armies overran the Polish frontier and converged on Warsaw from all directions, using their notorious blitzkrieg tactics. And Stalin joined in the frenzy of slicing up Poland.

Shortly thereafter, Great Britain declared war on Germany, followed by France. Thus, in September of 1939, World War II was started.

Again, we boys asked our mother the same question: "Mama, why didn't the German people realize that Hitler was lying and was an evil dictator and get rid of him?"

Mama explained once more, "In the 1930's Hitler charmed the people with his charismatic speeches and rescued Germany from the depths of a major economic depression, rebuilt the economy, and re-awakened a sense of national pride which had been destroyed by the loss of World War I. Once he was in power and his evil nature showed, it was too late for anyone to oust him. He then surrounded himself with a cadre of evil men, such as Himmler and Goering and Goebbels, who carried out his dirty deeds for him. He controlled the military and all public media. You boys must promise me to never tell this to anyone, okay, or we would be branded as traitors and taken away by the Gestapo."

To allay our fears, Mama read to us from Isaiah 41:10: *Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous hand.* Our mother's faith never faltered, throughout the duration of this war.

The complete story of my World War II experiences, including a history of the entire war of Germany vs. Russia on the Eastern front, and Germany vs. the Allied forces on the Western front, is contained in my book titled ***World War II Through The Eyes of a German Child***. This book was published by Xlibris in 2011 and is available directly from me in paperback form.

Reinhold (Ron) Pflugfelder,

Member of Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church in Panama City Beach, Florida





Reaching out to Kids. Sharing Christ

“Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” 15 When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.” (Matthew 19:13-15)

There is interest building and conversations and dreams being shared with me about starting a once-a-week after-school kid’s fellowship program and/or a youth program to share Jesus with the kids in our community. *Wouldn’t it be wonderful to hear the church noisy again with sounds of children and youth laughing, playing, singing, praying, and studying throughout the rooms and hallways of our church again?* The need is there. The question for us is: How will we fill it? What is a faithful response as Christ’ church?

A resource from our denomination came across my desk recently that talked about the ways few other Presbyterian churches are following Jesus command, *“Let the little children come to me...”* It said, “In our American society today, children constitute the poorest age cohort in our country. Nearly 17.7 million children are poor, and 6.5 million of them are extremely poor—surviving on less than half the poverty-line income. The vulnerability of these children is a risky proposition not only for them, but for the nation and its future. Children have no capacity to help themselves—they are dependent, with no vote and no skills to gain what they need to thrive. While many are blessed with loving and capable families, others are not. Some loving families are themselves mired in circumstances which thwart their own hopes and dreams for their children. Jesus, whose own attention to the well-being of children was a hallmark of his ministry, calls the church to *“remove the stumbling blocks”* that cause these little ones to falter.

Here are ways some congregations are working to remove stumbling blocks:

In the suburban setting of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, children from the William Dick Elementary School in North Philadelphia come to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church twice a week for a tutoring program focused on reading but including enrichment programs in the music, arts, yoga, and nutrition. Tutors are recruited from 10 neighboring high schools—both congregational members and community residents are welcome. The program, now in its 50th year, is so popular that, both among students and tutors, successive generations of the same family participate.

At First Presbyterian Church in Shelbyville, Kentucky, a literacy and tutoring program for children arriving from Central America was developed in 2002 in consultation with local teachers. In an ecumenical spirit, four congregations sponsor the tutoring program in a community committed to the success of all its children. These children now have the help they need to overcome a language barrier and are completing school, getting jobs,

and going on to college.”

How is Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church being called to respond? Through whatever sacrifice of time, talent, and treasure God calls us to make as disciples and as his church, working with the children and youth of our church and neighborhood will mean that we will have the opportunity and experience of “seeing” Christ within the faces of children and youth and to act to enable these kids to live the lives for which they were created.

Proverbs 22:6: Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Our church neighborhood is full of children and youth. Are we, are you, ready and willing to reach-out to them, sharing yourselves, your faith, your resources, our buildings, our time, our faith, and God’s love with them?

If you would be interested in being a part of this ministry opportunity in some way or another through the gifts of your time, talents, treasure, and your love, start praying about this and come dream dreams and create a vision with us! We will need lots of helping hands and listening hearts if we are going to take on new opportunities and ministry with the kids in our church and community. We need to be willing to think outside of the box in order to connect with them in ways that will build true relationships and transformation rooted and grounded in Christ and his love.

You have something to offer the children and youth of this community-I guarantee it! Let’s start talking and praying about the possibilities! Contact Tammy Price or myself if you want to be part of the discussion and planning about the new thing God is already doing in the life and hearts of this congregation and our community and its kids.

I want them to see Jesus and walk with him. How about you?

In Christ’ service,

Pastor Bonnie Wilkins

870-415-2082

gbpcpastor@gmail.com





*Upon the occasion of retirement,
giving thanks for 25 years of faithful ministry
Dr. Larry Tyson, Director of Music*

1990 – 2015

Retirement of Dr. Larry Tyson: We give thanks for the 25 years of faithful ministry of Dr. Larry Tyson as our Director of Music. He has retired and moved to The Villages. His new address is 7896 167th SE Mistwood Lane The Villages, FL 32162 (352) 633-2803.

Litany of Thanksgiving

One: For twenty five years, Dr. Tyson has served as the Music Director of our church. He has offered his gifts and has worked diligently for the building up of the church and our faith through Music and the Arts in our worship. By the grace of God, you have served us well.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: As you begin your retirement, God is already inviting you to continue to share God's wondrous gifts of grace and music through your life in a new place, a new faith community, with new adults and children. May God's richest blessings be upon you as you faithfully serve Christ in building God's Kingdom here on earth, as it is in heaven.

All: In the book of Ecclesiastes, it is written: "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...."

One: As your retirement begins, it is a time to mark the ending of your ministry here at Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church, a time to give thanks and sing praise to Almighty God for what Dr. Tyson has given us in by grace through faith.

All: Go now, and do God's will. As you have been a blessing to us, go to be a blessing to others.

One: Witness faithfully in word and deed, in music and singing, the love and salvation that is known to us in Christ.

All: May God, the Father, bless you in your ministry in retirement.

May God, the Son, be ever with you and guide you. May God, the Holy Spirit, equip you with everything good to do God's will. May you always know God's peace. Go with our love and follow Jesus' way. Thanks be to God. Amen.



Food Pantry News

September was an exciting month for the Food Pantry with lots of changes. The month of June, July and August were under average for people requesting food, however tourism is down in September causing layoffs and an increase in food requests.

Fresh Market opened their doors on September 9th and asked our Pantry as well as two other pantries to partner with them. This means we will go to the Market 2 day a week and pick up day old food the Market has to discard. We are getting a small amount of meats, pastries, sandwiches, etc, but mostly breads. What we cannot take they must discard. Our 2 freezers are overflowing.

Thaddeus, Lenny and Hunter Price moved an upright freezer from the Gulf Treat kitchen storage across the property into the Pantry, and moved the freezer chest into the Church kitchen. Not only did we get a 3rd freezer but we got more open space in the Pantry. We are really cramped for space. We also replaced our 6 ft work table with a 2 ft x 4 ft table. Miss Edna ran the vacuum as the furniture was moved around and cleaned the floor boards. They really are yellow! It's amazing what a little cleaning can do for a room. Thank you folks for all the help.

We joined in partnership with the Bay Area Food Pantry. This is a Federally subsidize organization who will deliver the food we order from them to our door. This food is much cheaper than we can purchase at a commercial market. We will purchase canned goods mostly here and continue shopping sales locally as well as some foods in smaller packaging that is not available from BAFP.

It will take a couple of month to see how this all shakes out, but I am hoping we will have plenty of food at low cost and stretch our funds further. **What we won't have are hygiene and cleaning products. We are asking the congregation for donations of shampoo, deodorant, razors, bar soap, toothpaste & brushes, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning products.** When you run short on money food comes 1st and other items fall way down the list. I go to the Dollar Tree to buy the hygiene products I donate to the Pantry. Seems you get the most for your money on these items there.

Even though we are getting food at lower costs, we still need cash to work with. We appreciate any and all cash donations.

The Volunteers appreciate your support over the years. We thank the Lord for the generous contributions from the congregation and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Beve Lutz, Elder Missions.



Ministry News



The Men's ministry is taking a break.



To all the women of the church

Sara Circle will meet Tuesday, October 13th at 12:30PM. We will begin the study of "Moses". Please read Exodus and Numbers over the next 6 months. See ya there.

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 sale 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.



Heart and Hands 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.



Empty Cup Bible Study with Thaddeus Wilkins Begins Wed. October 7th from 10:30AM—noon

Come out and meet with Thad every Wed. from 10:30am to noon for fellowship and Bible Study at the Pour Coffee house. 12902 Front Beach Road next to the ARK.



Oct. Anniversaries 27-Bill & Joan Marden Oct. Birthday 6-Helen Hughes Irene Reed Ted Schoppe	12-Bonnie Wilkins 20-Lynne Jossart 30-Doug Gilmore
---	--



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
- Lenny Zacher 850-867-3770 tennis850@ail.com
- Wanda Pflugfelder 850-249-3396 reinholdwanda@misn.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 dirtft.coleman@gmail.com
- Suzanne Burke 850-867-5371 suzannegilmoreburke@gmail.com
- Lorraine Gilmore 850-867-5370 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 meals at area restaurants-dutch treat). We are having our monthly fellowship at **Coconuts on October 6th at 4:30pm**. We have had a great time talking, laughing, eating, and getting to know one another. Usually about a dozen or so of us each month. Come join the fellowship! Coconuts 17458 Front Beach Rd. @ the Sandpiper Beacon Resort



The "Love Line" is available for your prayer needs, announcements and celebrations. Just email your requests to Mary Foist at myseaclusion@gmail.com

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- August 2015 our food pantry served 176 people a total of 1584 meals.

Needs: Toilet paper, & Personal Hygiene products. The food pantry is in need of small individually wrapped items such as things for a sack lunch. **Snack crackers, fruit cups, juice boxes etc.**

Let's Get Moving: *A walking program for our congregation*

Our Presbyterian Church(USA) Health Ministries Division is encouraging congregations to promote health lifestyles and fitness programs. One way they do this is by providing walking program start-up ideas for congregations. This is to encourage congregations to "get moving" on healthier life choices and responses so that we can live longer and feel better.



"Presbyterians, like many of our colleagues and neighbors, tend to live rather sedentary lives. We often sit behind desks or around committee tables exercising our minds, but not our bodies. This lifestyle, combined with a life-long opportunity to eat as often and as much as we like, can contribute to our individual girth and place us at increased risk for cardiovascular events and diabetes. Walking programs are an ideal way for congregations to focus on an opportunity for individual Presbyterians to practice good stewardship of our own bodies and health collectively...The health benefits of walking are astonishing. Not only does walking help reduce stress, but it also reduces the risk of developing heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, stroke and breast or colon cancer. Walking stimulates the brain to release endorphins, the body's natural opiates, which can make you feel better about life right away. It also stimulates the brain to increase production of the neurotransmitter serotonin, another potent mood elevator..." says our denomination's Health Ministry Division.



Pastor Bonnie is starting-up a personal walking program from her own desire to "get moving" as summer turns to fall and temperatures begin to go back down. Do you need to make a healthy lifestyle change too? Moving, moving, moving; get those bodies moving----Yahoo!

Everyone is encouraged to keep track of the miles you walk/jog/run/bike throughout the week and record them on our chart in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Bonnie has set a year-long goal to "walk to Galilee," a 6,638 mile journey from Panama City Beach! Keep walking and let's get moving as a matter of health and faithfulness. We honor God and our bodies as holy gifts from God by recognizing and caring for them as the spiritual dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Get moving, keep moving! Blessings on your daily journey.



Community Music, Art and Craft Faire

We are in the planning stage for our Fall Faire, November 14, 8:00 – 4:00. This time of year would be a good time to pick up items for Christmas. There will be vendors of all kinds. So far we know that the ladies of Sara Circle will be serving up their famous chili and baked goods; Ron Pflugfelder will have a book signing both; Thaddeus Wilkins and Shirley Brown will be taking pictures of our pets; and, Pastor Bonnie will be conducting blessings of our pets, how special! You will also receive a small medallion to place on your pet's dog collar signifying he/she has been blessed.

Doug Gilmore has said he would participate but for now it's a secret, but with Doug as the grill master, we know it has to be good. We will have coffee, hot tea, hot chocolate, and water available.

There will be vendors selling their wares and crafts; various community organizations and non-profit groups, music, and several food vendors. So be sure and save that date on your calendar and join us for a day full of fun, food, and music.

Fliers and Vendor applications are in the fellowship hall.

Please take a few and spread the word. Proceeds all go to the church. We can use all the volunteers we can possible get. Please call Wanda Pflugfelder if you would like to volunteer. (850) 249-3396. Also, we encourage any of you to reserve a booth and try to sell your crafts or products of your talent. The proceeds of your sales are totally yours. The money we make is off the sale of the booths and food items that we supply. One of the major reasons for having a fall faire is for our congregation to interact with people of our surrounding community and build relationships.



Community Yard Sale

We will be having a community yard sale on Saturday, October 17th in the church parking lot. Each space is \$15.00. If you want to rent a table, the additional cost is \$5.00 per table. We welcome everyone from the community to buy a space or come and shop on October 17. Set up will begin at 6 AM and all areas must be cleaned up by 1PM. Help is needed for set up and a food table during the sale. The rain date is October 31. Please call Betsy Balmer 850-348-2890 if you have questions. Thanks. Please spread the word in our community. A large turn out is good for everyone.

2015 Panama City Beach

Gulf Beach Community

Music
ARTS &
crafts Fair



Saturday, Nov. 14th 8-4p

Arts & Crafts Sale, Music,



Storyteller, **FOOD**

Family events, Community Booths,

Blessing of the Animals,

271 S.Hwy79

Gulftreat @ Gulf Beach Presbyterian
Church

Panama City Beach, Fl.
32413

OCTOBER

Dear Friends,

I had a problem with our calendar program this month and was unable to download it to the newsletter.

Please find our monthly calendar on our [website](#). Sorry for the inconvenience.

There are also printed copies of the calendar on the back table in the fellowship hall.

Liz



Happy Fall ya'll