

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

Tel: 234-3161
Find us on the Web at:
www.pinkchurch.org



*We are a Christian
community that offers
fellowship and preaches
the Gospel of God's
love in Jesus Christ.*

*Now may the Lord of Peace Himself give you Peace at all times
and in every way. The Lord will be with all of you.*

-2 Thessalonians 3:16

BEACH TIDINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF GULF BEACH PRESBYTERIAN

JANUARY 2015

Special points of interest:

- How to Love
- A word from your New Pastor
- Say goodbye to resolutions
- Let's Move
- Life Touch Photo Directory
- Calendar

Articles for the Newsletter can be email to 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 Worship
Time
8:15AM
10:15 AM

Sunday School
9:15AM



**Gulf Beach
Presbyterian
Church
Staff and Session**

Bonnie Wilkins
Pastor

Dr. Larry Tyson –
Music Director

Norma Davison -
Accompanist

Liz Creswell –
Bookkeeper/
Admin. Assistant

SESSION: Your session is available to you at anytime for member care. Please feel free to call on them.

Tracy Schoppe (2013) Clerk of Session 867-5372
schoppepcb@aol.com

Lenny Zacher– 867-3770
tennis850@aol.com,

Beve Lutz- 235-7349
meinschatz406@aol.com,

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Wanda_griffin@hotmail.com

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Christian philosopher Paul Tillich said, “The first responsibility of love is to listen.” Yet in our fast-paced culture, truly listening to someone has become a lost art.

The intricate Chinese written character for the verb to listen offers wise insight about how to listen to people so they feel heard. The symbol is actually a combination of characters for ears, eyes and an open heart. Basically it reads, “I give you my ears, my eyes and my undivided attention.” What a great image of being fully engaged during the act of communication!

James 1:19 offers two wise resolutions for the year ahead: Be “quick to listen” and “slow to speak” (NRSV). Practicing the skill of active listening is a much-needed way to minister to other people, serving as Jesus’ “ears” in a hurting world.

for•give
/fər'gɪv/



- stop feeling angry or resentful toward (someone) for an offense, flaw or mistake.
- cancel (a debt)

To forgive is to love
We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

A word from your Pastor

Greetings to my new church family!

I have been asked to share a little about myself with you. My journey of faith began in 1958 in Flint, Michigan. I was adopted when I was 6-months old and I was baptized several months later on Mother's Day and raised with my adopted brother in the Presbyterian Church. My parents were very involved in all the ministries of the church their whole lives. I lived throughout the United States with my family as my father's management career kept us moving. I grew up with love and appreciation for art, music, and theater. While living in Los Angeles, I played clarinet with the Los Angeles Junior Philharmonic. I also played saxophone in a Jazz band in college. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1984 with a B.S. in Sociology. Just before graduation, I was married and lived in Germany for three years while my first husband (of 13 years) was in the Army. When we returned to the United States we settled in Louisville, Ky.

I have long served the church. I was ordained as a Deacon in 1976 while I was still in high school. I was ordained as an Elder in 1993, and served the local church in almost every capacity. When I returned from Germany, I was a Credit Manager with a manufacturing firm where I specialized in international business and finance for ten years. After a divorce in 1997, I began a re-assessment of my life and work. During this time, I had a spiritual awakening that changed the course of my life. In 1998, I felt called to serve the church full-time and left my corporate career behind and entered seminary.

I was a participant in a Cuban Travel/Study Seminar through the PC(USA) that summer before entering seminary and that set the tone for the next three years of study. I graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2001 with a Master of Divinity degree. I was ordained in 2002 as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. My first call was as the Associate Pastor for Christian Education at a large Presbyterian church in Sandy, Utah (a suburb of Salt Lake City). In 2004, I accepted a call to pastor The Presbyterian Church of Crossett, a small town church in southeast Arkansas on the Louisiana border. I have served with them just over 10 years. I have also been very involved in the community, a member of the local Ministerial Alliance, a board member and officer of our Food Pantry, and actively serving several committees in the Presbytery. I went to Israel for two weeks with a group of pastors in 2009. I went as a guest of Columbia Seminary in Atlanta. Many of us continue to meet for four days every year in Atlanta for a time of spiritual accountability and renewal as colleagues in ministry.

My husband, Thaddeus (Thad) I have been married five years. We met on EHarmony but it was truly the Lord who brought us together. We are partners in life and ministry. Every day together we have tried to fulfill Christ's command to one another and to family, friends, and community: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Thad is retired, so he says! He is a graduate of the University of Louisville. He had several inventions in high school that kick started his career path in electrical engineering. He worked as a Senior Design Engineer for IBM for many years and did other management work for several other companies during his career. He has been serving the church as a Ruling Elder, Sunday School teacher, and Clerk of Session. He is a Gideon and has been the Chaplain and a speaker for that group. He also keeps very busy as a photographer, website developer, media consultant, and has done some teaching as an adjunct professor with a local college. He started The Artisan's Co-op in Crossett. He is excited about finding his niche at Gulf Beach and in the community.

I have one son who was in the Air Force. He recently finished his enlistment. He has a home in Mary Esther and is deciding where to now go to school. Thad has three daughters, one in Atlanta, one in Indianapolis, and one in California. We have three young granddaughters by his middle daughter. We look forward to getting to know you and your family in the next few months. Thad and I are looking forward to becoming involved in the life of this church, and involved in the community as active members of various organizations as representatives of this congregation.

I feel so blessed to take this next step on this Christian spiritual journey as your pastor and as a companion in Christ with you. I love congregational life and ministry. The Church and its ministry is where I find my joy. Surely God has been the orchestrator of this call and response by you and by me. I hear the words of Isaiah as I think about our future together as Christ's Church in Panama City Beach: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" May God bless our ministry together as we seek to embody the good news of Jesus Christ and his love to our community and one another. The peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Bonnie Wilkins

LET THE NEW BEGIN!

It's January, the start of a new year and time to dust off the treadmills we use as clothes hangers, analyze our bad habits, and make those New Year's resolutions. And here's how those resolutions usually work: we make 'em and we break 'em! In fact, studies suggest that fewer than 12 percent of us keep our New Year's resolutions. Yet we've been making them for thousands of years. It's true! Records suggest that as far back as 4,000 years ago, the Babylonians were making (and undoubtedly breaking) New Year's resolutions.

Why have we been making resolutions for so long? It's our human nature to constantly evaluate and want to change things. We ask "What's wrong with me?" and then we vow to give up our favorite coffee shop in the morning and head for the gym. But history has a way of repeating itself, and soon our steering wheel is inching its way back toward luscious mocha, whipped cream, forgo-the-skinny land. After 4,000 years with an 88 percent failure rate, it's obvious that resolutions are long overdue for retirement.

This new year, say goodbye once and for all to the old way, and let a new way begin. Because a better way of looking at things has come. The Message translation of 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 makes it plain that we don't have to ask "what's wrong with me?" or evaluate ourselves (or others) the same way anymore:

"We don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons!"

Time to get rid of the old mirrors and start looking at a new reflection! Our human way of evaluating ourselves just doesn't work. It really is what's on the inside, not the outside, that counts.

Stop looking to the same old resolutions to change your life this new year, and look instead for the new change—the inside-out change—that is your new life. Not in what you do but who you truly are. Rather than a list of resolutions, make a list of revelations! And celebrate the true joy of a happy new year!

The Word

"So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

—2 Corinthians 5:16-17

My New Year's Revelation

List:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

FOOD PANTRY

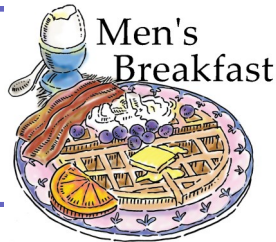
The Food Pantry's mission is to increase access to food for hungry people, and empower them to help each other.

In November the food pantry served 317 total people and we supplied them with 2853 meals.

Please help stock our shelves.

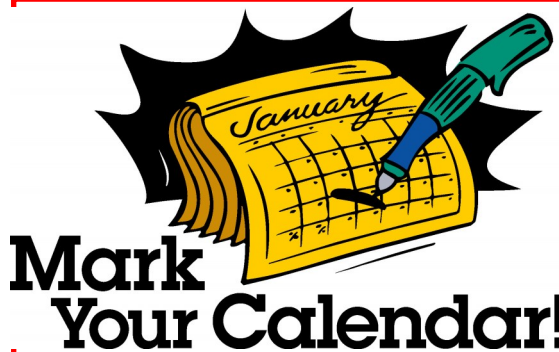
January Needs: Peanut Butter, Saltine crackers & soup. You may wonder why we always ask for the same items. The reason is because those three items go to every one regardless of how many people in their family so we give out more of these three than any other item.

THE Men's Breakfast will be on January 5th at 7:30AM.



The building and grounds committee is starting a monthly Fix-up Clean-up Day at the Church.

This will resume the in January. It will be the third (3rd) Sunday of every month 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!



JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

January 5—Men's Breakfast 7:30AM
Let's Move Exercise class begins 10-11AM M, W, F

January 7— Fellowship dinner 5:30pm

January 13— Sara Circle 12:30pm

January 17— Yard Sale/ Bake Sale 7-1 PM

January 21— Fellowship Dinner 5:30pm

January 25— Congregational Meeting

January 29-31— Photo Directory Photos (Don't forget to schedule yours)

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



To all the women of the church:

The Sara Circle will meet on January 13th at 12:30 we will have a covered dish lunch with a short devotional, and prayer circle.

We will be studying about Paul this year in 6 lessons. We will be studying in several different books of the New Testament, but if you want to start reading ahead, read Acts because we will look at each of his missionary journeys found there.

Traditionally we have two projects a year:

A Rummage/bake sale on January 17th The proceeds will be given to the church as needed for such things as building repairs, equipment replacement, youth camp scholarships, plus Thornwell Home for Children. We have a storage room here on the property. You may bring your "treasures" to the church office and we'll store them until January. Liz's regular hours are Tues-Wed -Thurs. 9a-2p.

In February we have a "High Tea" for the ladies and girls above 5 years old. Hats are not required, but sometimes fun to put on a hat. We serve finger sandwiches and petite desserts.



Let's Move (formally known as Body Recall)

Low Impact Movement for Men & Women of all ages

Beginning January 5th in Gulf Treat

It will be on Mon, Wed. and Fri. from 10-11 AM

New Time

You can expect Let's Move to be gentle movements that help blood circulate to all parts of your body without threatening the heart, an increased awareness of your own particular body functions, and a sense of achievement as you begin to regain control over the body you thought could never be called back to some of its former vitality and flexibility.

Class will be taught by Julie Bailey former certified Body Recall instructor.

SHEPHERDING TEAM

Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church commissioned a Shepherding Team on June 1, 2014. The purpose of our Shepherding Team, which is made up of 12 members of our church, is to visit those who are sick, hospitalized or shut-in, make follow-up visits and/or phone calls to visitors of our church, and to witness in the community at large. We are also available to our winter members. We are available to our snowbirds - regardless the amount of time you spend with us we are here for you. We are your brothers and sisters in Christ. We invite you to share with us and allow us to pray with and for you. We are also available to pray at the conclusion of Sunday services. All team members have completed 12 hours of training focusing on the primary areas of visitation and witnessing. We would like to invited anyone who is interested in assisting this very special ministry and outreach to please contact us.

For those who would like to request prayers or visitation or join this important aspect of the Great Commission

the Shepherding email address is:
gulfbeachshepherding-team@yahoo.com,

The Shepherding phone number is
850-819-1265



Something new at Gulf Beach

Attendance Pads are now being passed down the aisle. Not only do we want to know you were here, we need your address. Winter visitors please give us your local address so we can sent the newsletter to you and send a note of Welcome Back, we are glad you are here.

Lifetouch portrait

FEED THE NEED

Bring a food donation for the food pantry and receive \$5.00 off your **Lifetouch** portrait order. Let's fill this bag up!!!

Sign-up for your sitting beginning Jan. 4th
Photo dates are Jan. 29th-31st.



DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

We need YOU to make our directory complete!

To celebrate our church family and strengthen the bond within our congregation, we have made the commitment to produce a new *fellowship pictorial directory*. A pictorial directory is our church family album. A new directory:

- Preserves this special time in the life and ministry of our church
- Becomes a lasting record of our current membership
- Introduces our church to friends, the community and new members
- Enhances fellowship by helping us visually connect faces with names
- Becomes a communication tool for our congregation

We have selected Lifetouch Church Directories and Portraits to service our congregation. Lifetouch is providing the

directory at *no cost to our church*. Plus, every family photographed receives a *complimentary directory and an 8x10*

portrait! **You can sign up at the church on Sunday mornings for the next few weeks.**

For your convenience, all photography and portrait viewing will take place at our church. You will have a variety of poses taken, and *Lifetouch never charges a sitting fee!* One pose will be selected for the directory. In addition to your complimentary 8x10, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits at attractive prices on the day of your portrait session.

You also have the opportunity to invite your extended family and have portraits made with everyone together. Just schedule together and add additional time spots for each of your extended family units. Each family unit will be photographed and receive their own complimentary 8x10 portrait. Lifetouch will then photograph generational poses with everyone together, grandparents and grandkids, or any special poses you would like to have. The additional families count towards our program but will not necessarily be included in our directory.

In addition, think about the outreach opportunity if "*every family brings "family"!*" Invite a family or friend in your neighborhood to come and receive their own complimentary 8x10 portrait. These additional families will also count towards our program, but most important, think about the outreach opportunity we will have to follow up with them. Perhaps this event will be the first contact we have in leading them to a relationship with Christ and a relationship with us as their church family!

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to be professionally photographed. Lifetouch offers so many ways to capture the memories. Your portraits are sure to become valued family keepsakes ... treasured now and for generations to come.

We are looking forward to seeing you in our directory.

Rev. Bonnie J. Wilkins

Your Pastor

P.S. This is a professional portrait session. What you wear has a major influence on how satisfied you will be with your portraits. Watch for your *Portrait Sitting Guide* with tips on how to prepare for your session. We also ask that you allow *one hour* during which time you will check-in, be photographed and select your portraits.



Photos will be taken here at the church for your convenience.

Appointment days and times will be as follows:

Thursday, January 29th from 1:30 to 8:40

Friday, January 30th from 1:30 to 8:40.

Saturday, January 31st from 10:00—5:10

Please sign up for your sitting after worship starting Sunday, Jan. 4th.

Join us as we

CONNECT our families



Please be a part of our new family directory program—we need YOU to make our new family album complete!

Let's put names with faces. We have chosen to partner with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our members and tell our story.

Convenient

Lifetouch will photograph at our location.

In your one-hour session you will:

- Check-in
- Be professionally photographed
- Immediately view your portraits
- Have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits

When was the last time you or your family had a professional portrait taken?

Portraits are valued family keepsakes. Watch for more information coming soon about the opportunity to schedule your portrait session.

We look forward to seeing you!



Each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating



Exciting products turn your portraits into cherished memories

Products may vary

Winter Concert Series to Support Camp Helen State Park

Come join us for the 2015 series of concerts featuring the best American Roots musicians touring the country today. This impressive series of five indoor concerts at Camp Helen's historic log cabin style lodge is **sponsored by Florida's Department of Environmental Protection and the Friends of Camp Helen State Park.**

CONCERT DATES:

All concerts are from 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Saturday, January 10th—Brian Smalley

Saturday, January 24th—Paul Kamm & Eleanore MacDonald

Saturday, February 7th—The New 76ers

Saturday, February 21st— Granville Automatic

Saturday, March 7th— Scott & Michelle Dalziel

Admission is FREE

Donations accepted and will go directly to the Friends of Camp Helen State Park to be used to benefit the park's resource management projects and interpretive programs

For more information

Call: (850)233-5059

Email: Camphelenfriends@gmail.com

Camp Helen State Park is located 8 miles West of Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church on Hwy. 98.

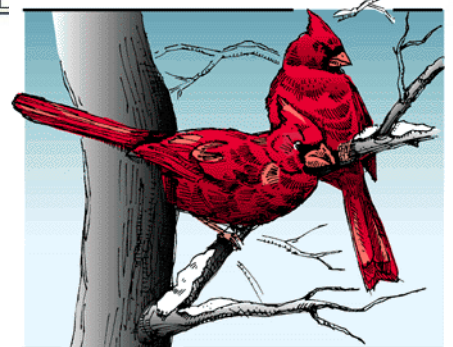
JANUARY

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January Birthdays

- 4- Joan Lott
- 7- Darlene Dilamarter
- 15- Joan Marden
- 21- Pamela Munson
- 23- Helen Gilmore
- 25- Joe Bailey
- 30- Mike Burke
- Bill Marden



JANUARY