

## **Gulf Beach**

### **Presbyterian Church**

271 S. Highway 79 Panama  
City Beach, FL. 32413

Office: (850) 234-3161

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

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

Twitter: @gulfbeachpres

Sermon Podcast :

<http://bjwilks.buzzsprout.com>

#### **Pastor**

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins

Cell: 850 415-2082

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

#### **Bookkeeper/Admin. Asst.**

Liz Creswell

[lizpinkchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:lizpinkchurch@hotmail.com)

#### **Choir Director/Accompanist**

Amanda Matthews



### **A Closer Look Inside...**

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### **Sunday Mornings @ Gulf Beach**

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Bible Study       | 9:00AM         |
| Coffee and Donuts | 9:45 & 11:15AM |
| Worship           | 8:15 & 10:15AM |

### **Jazz for the Soul Worship**

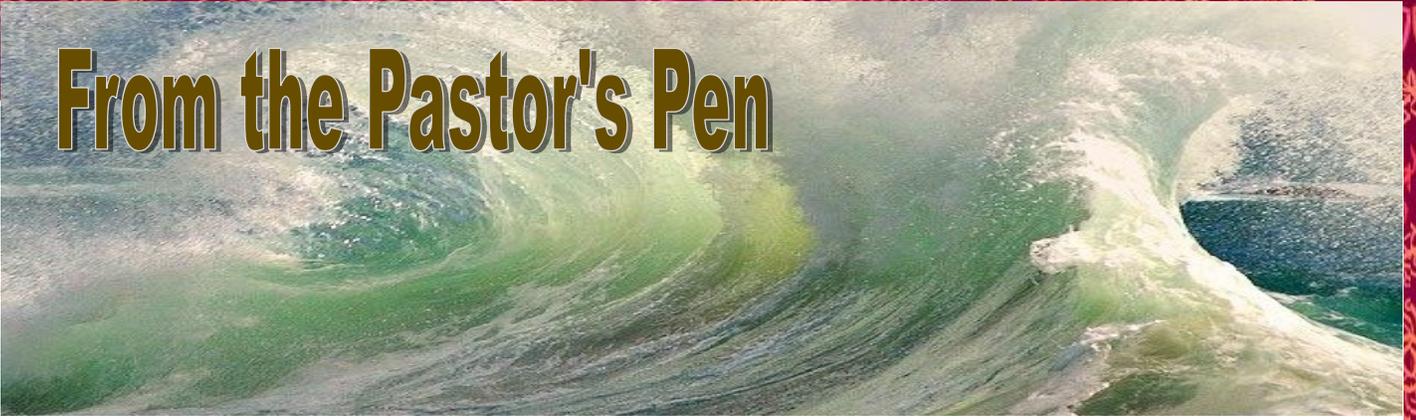
2nd Wed./ month at 7PM

# **BEACH TIDINGS**



## **FEBRUARY 2016**

# From the Pastor's Pen



## **The Meaning of Life** – some thoughts from the mountaintop and beach.

*...Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. . . who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's...(from Psalm 103)*

Often time away from the routines of daily life bring added renewal of body, mind, and spirit. Your gift of vacation and study leave each year allows me to experience a little renewal in every place of my being. I thank you for these gifts of time and place.

Not wanting to set my sights to low, while I am away, I hope each time to discover more about the meaning of life at this stage of my chronological and spiritual place in time. Two special places do this for me every time—mountaintops and oceans. Each has a way of clearing away obstacles and washing away the crust accumulations around all my senses and understandings.

I still can't get over how quiet it was on top of a certain Appalachian foothill in Alabama years ago. As a lifelong city and suburb girl, I found it downright silent up there! I understand why eagles hang-out in lofty places like this. On that mountaintop I enjoyed the mornings most of all. This was the last vacation I had with my mom and dad before they each passed away a couple years later. They were my cabin buddies, along with my teenage son, David. None of them were early risers so I had the deck overlooking the pond and woods to myself each morning as the sun rose, save a stray cat and owner's little dusty dog who adopted us as their own during mealtimes. Each morning I would watch the mist rise off the pond and listen to the trees "shower" as the morning breezes shook the dew from their leaves. This kind of natural silence fostered good prayer and listening time in me. My soul was blessed in this time away with God.

But by day five, my cabin buddies were going stir crazy. So the new plan was to drive down to Panama City Beach, Florida for two nights and a day of "surf" time (little did I know all those years ago that I would be serving the little pink church here with you now). Now I didn't mean "hang-ten" surf time, but floating-on-waves and baking-on-the-beach kind of surf time! I have always been drawn to the ocean. The sounds and smells of the sea put me in a different zone of being, kind of close to that third heaven the Apostle Paul talks about I think. We ended up staying in Ft. Walton Beach after getting a little lost, not having GPS and Google maps on smartphones back then. When we finally arrived and made our way down to the beach, my son and I shared a small wave board. We drifted in and out with the tide and the waves. He held on to one end, I on the other and we had some of the best conversations of his "teenage" years that day. Again, God really blessed my soul. It was a day with my son I'll never forget.

(cont. next page)

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

There weren't eagles there at the beach (although I know now there could have been in that part of the Emerald Coast). Rather than eagles, there were pelicans coasting (rather than soaring) through the space above and around us. The whole place felt youthful and fresh. It was inspiring to see the pelican's beauty and gracefulness as they coasted with the winds. I could tell they enjoyed their life there on the waters edge and I wondered if so might I. Was God listening to my heart and making a plan? God's creation is good. How awed and satisfied I felt to be a part of it, so many years ago. How immersed in God's goodness and greatness and renewal of life I was, in those grace-filled hours spent on the white sandy beaches and turquoise waters in the company of people I loved. And here I am today, with you in Panama City Beach, with people I love, floating in God's grace, making new memories, climbing spiritual mountains, and noticing God at work and at play in my daily life.

The meaning of life at this stage and this age of my life becomes a little clearer in some places and a little more mysterious in others. It does so in all the expected and unexpected movements of time and place, in all the beginnings and endings of life. Mountain tops and sandy beaches, hills and valleys, in town or out on the open road—each can bring a little revelation and a lot of hope. I think all of it is brought together in a way only God can do it and in a way only Jesus can satisfy with the good in us. So here is my advice: soar like a pelican, swim like a fish, climb like a mountain goat, rest like one who has peace in the Lord. Friends, God calls you, invites you, to be rooted and grounded in the time and place where God meets you each day. Let this be the promised blessing on your soul today.

The peace of Christ be with you,

*Rev. Bonnie Wilkins*



## A Change in Offering Envelopes

In an effort to cut pennies, we will not be using the Numbered offering envelopes this coming year. However, we will continue using the numbers for data entry in the computer. If you remember your current number you can write it on the blank envelopes found in the back of the church chairs. We will maintain blank envelopes for your convenience.



-Beve Lutz, Treasurer



I think that you have some serious faith issues

**2015 GIVING STATEMENTS** are now available on the table in the Narthex. Call the office if you can not pick your statement up and you need us to mail it to you.

### The Session of GBPC

Tracy Schoppe— 850 867-5372  
schoppepcb@aol.com  
*Clerk of Session*

Lenny Zacher— 850 867-3770  
tennis850@aol.com

Beve Lutz- 850 235-7349  
meinschatz406@aol.com  
*Treasurer*

Ron Coleman-850 890-1172  
dirtft.coleman@gmail.com

Wanda Pflugfelder-  
850 249-3396  
Wanda\_griffin@hotmail.com

Jim Price— 850 830-3612  
jbprice0@gmail.com

Betsy Balmer— 850 348-2890  
aprilfoolb@yahoo.com

Tari Sale— 850 238-5623  
mrstsale@gmail.com  
(incoming)

Bob Lemken- 636 485-2189  
mrbb44@gmail.com  
(incoming)

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins—  
870 415-2082  
gbpcpastor@gmail.com  
*Moderator of Session*

### Prayer Love Line:

Mary Foist  
myseaclusion@gmail.com

### February Fellowship Dinner

*Herb Roasted Pork Loin*

*Sweet Potato Casserole,*

*Homemade Rolls*

*Mixed Green Salad with Balsamic Dressing*



*Strawberry Cake*

*Coffee and Tea*

February 17, 2016 at 5:30PM, Gulf Treat

Adults \$12.50, Children under 14 \$3.00

RSPV—Church 850 234-3161

Julie Bailey, Hospitality Committee Chairperson

### From the Hospitality Team Kitchen

**Buffalo Wing Dip** : This is a fabulous, easy recipe for your Super Bowl get-together on February 7th!

2 large cans white meat chicken or 3 if you want more chicken [drained]

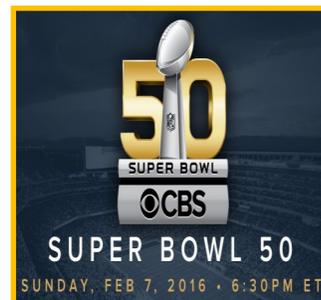
1/cup ranch salad dressing [Hidden Valley]

1/cup buffalo wing sauce medium [add hot to taste]

Mix all together and set aside.

2 pkg. cream cheese, spread in the bottom of your pan [spray with pam first]

Pour chicken mixture on top . Add grated cheddar cheese on top. Cook 30 min. on 350. Add green onions chopped fine, on top.



# High Tea

The women of Sara Circle would like to invite all women of the church, members and non-members, to join Gulf Beach Presbyterian Women for High Tea, Feb., 20<sup>th</sup>. from 2-4PM. We encourage you to bring your daughter, niece, mother, or friend and celebrate laughter and good conversation and fun, through the suppressed little girl inside of us all to dress up for tea. We also encourage everyone wear a hat, however, if you do not



have a hat, Tari Sale usually brings a large number of her gorgeous collection of hats for us to borrow for the tea. More details should be forthcoming in the Sunday bulletins several weeks before the event.



This has been a tradition of sisterhood for quite a few years here at Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church. There are pictures in the fellowship hall of the church posted under Presbyterian Women on the bulletin board as proof of good times and just how pretty the hats are and fun to wear. For more information, contact Wanda Pglugfelder.

## Locking up our buildings...

Many of us have keys and use various church facilities for our activities, events and ministries. We have a problem in that doors are sometimes left unlocked. Please be diligent in ensuring that all doors are locked (and lights are turned off, and thermostats are reset) when you complete your work at our little pink church. Thanks, Property Committee



**Pastor Bonnie** leads the Chapel Service at Superior Residences, PCB, every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 2:30p. You are invited to come and share in this ministry to our community. This month's service is on Feb. 1st.

## NEEDS for the month of FEBRUARY:



Pork n' Beans, soup, toilet paper and small containers of deodorant. We also have freezers to store meat.



**- then it's time to follow the Jesus Way**

## GO. DISCIPLE. LIVE.

Our denominational ministry team continues to focus its works on helping churches and presbyteries:

- **Go** beyond church walls,
- **Disciple** by learning and growing together to be like Jesus,
- **Live** thriving in mission, where God has placed us.



**Spiritual Practice of “Noticing”** this practice helps you to become more aware of God.....Notice a time when you feel calm and quiet. Notice an interesting noise. Notice a time when it is absolutely silent. Notice something joyful. Notice when you feel loved.

### Gulf Beach Presbyterian

## Church and the Arts 24th Concert Series

February 21, 2016 @ 7pm - Arnold HS Jazz Band Ensemble

and

February 28, 2016 @ 7pm - Brian Muth

*Tickets available at the door \$10.00*



*Beach Tidings* is published monthly to inform members and friends of church news, upcoming events, and “for spiritual nurture. Deadline for contributions is the 15th of each month. Contributions are subject to editing with regard to subject matter, space requirements and timely submission.

We appreciate your kind and thoughtful cooperation. For weekly updates, please come to the Worship Service each Sunday morning to receive your copy of the Bulletin and Announcements.

Our Daily Bread for KIDS

Reading the Bible will help you know about God  
**What Is God Like?**

Video chats are fun. It's great to be able to see and hear a person who lives far away. Maybe you have a relative or friend in another city, or even another state or country. With the right computer or phone, you can see that person's smile and hear their laugh!



When you can see or hear someone else, it's easier to know what that person is like. Being face-to-face makes you feel closer to others.

But you can't see God face-to-face, and God doesn't talk to you out loud. Sometimes you might wonder what God is like, or feel like God is far away. That's why God gave us the Bible. God's Word shows us what God is like.

The Bible says God is loving and cares about you. God is tender and gentle. God is kind. God doesn't get angry easily. God loves you a lot. God understands how you feel when you are sad or having a bad day. Everything about God is good.

You can't talk to God over video chat. But when you want to know more about God, your Bible will tell you everything you need to know. The verses you read will help you understand just what God is like. —Teri McKinley

**What does Micah 7:19 tell us about God?**

**"Planting Hope"** Here is the layout for planting a most successful garden --*the garden of HOPE*:

Plant four rows of Peas: *Prayer, Promptness, Patience, Preparation*

Plant Four rows of Squash: *Squash gossip, Squash indifference, Squash criticism, Squash negative thinking*

Plant Four rows of Turnips: *Turn Up for church services, Turn Up whenever needed, Turn Up with a friendly smile.*

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(See Matthew 14:14-21) 03-13-2009  
**YES I COULD MAKE FIVE THOUSAND OF THOSE, BUT A FEW FISH AND SOME BREAD MIGHT BE A BETTER OPTION**



**February 8th is Super Bowl Sunday.** The youth Confirmation Class will be organizing this national food collection event for our church. Youth in churches throughout the USA have been collecting soup and money on this game day since 1990. In 2015, 6,715 organizations collected \$8,097,352 in food and money donations on Super Bowl Sunday to give to their local charity to help put an end to hunger. You are asked to bring canned soup (especially with meat or other protein in it) or a cash donation to worship that morning. They will bless the soups and donations during worship and then it will be given to the Food Pantry. **Let's all bring soup**

**or cash donations to help celebrate the 50th Super Bowl and help put an end to hunger.**

# Ministry News

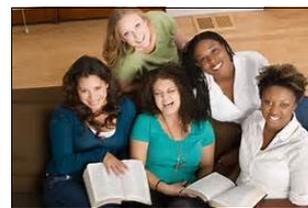
## To all the women of the church:

Sara Circle, a revelry of sisterhood, will meet Tuesday, Feb. 9th at 12:30PM .  
Led by Elder Beve Lutz.



Thanks to everyone who participated and donated time and money and muscle-power to the Sara Circle **Annual Rummage Sale** that was held on Jan. 23rd. Over \$1,300 was generated from the sale. This money goes to: help finance major Church building repairs and upkeep, send our kids to Church camp, support the Thornwell Children's home.  
We appreciated your support!

**Evening Women's Circle** meet for a shared meal and bible study the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00PM. See you on February 22nd!  
Led by Elder Betsy Balmer.



**Hands and Hearts Caregiver Support Group** meet every Thursday, 1-2PM. This is a small group of men and women who gather each week to offer care for one another and to share their caregiving experiences in hopes that their solutions may in some way be of benefit to others. Led by Elder Wanda Pflugfelder.

## Jazz for the Soul—February 10th (Ash Wed.)

Come and worship with us on the 2nd Wed. of the month at 7:00pm in Gulfstream. Jazz music by the accomplished jazz pianist, **Amanda Matthews** and invited guests musicians. Communion is celebrated at this service each month. This month's theme is: Radical Love.

A Jazz for the Soul email with information about each jazz service is sent out monthly. To subscribe to this email, send email addresses to: [GulfBeachPres@gmail.com](mailto:GulfBeachPres@gmail.com) with "Jazz" in the subject line.

For more information, contact: Lenny Zacher, Worship Team (850 867-3770); Rev. Bonnie Wilkins (850 234-3161)



## NEWS FROM REV. DR. HARVEY and JOHANNA JENKINS....

Harvey and I are enjoying life in Whitlash, MT. It's quite a change and lots of adjustments to be made, but we needed that. The manse is an older house that was moved to this location several years ago. It's quite cozy and comfortable although it's lacking many of the things I had grown accustomed to in my daily life. Most notable---a dishwasher. Since we are many miles--35 or 50--from the nearest towns, we do not eat out for lunch. It seems I am constantly cooking---not my thing at all--and washing dishes. It's been a long time since I've had dishpan hands!

The folks in the 8 member church are gracious and welcoming. Periodically, we are given goodie baskets filled with such things as zucchini marmalade, MT honey, and of course, beef! We were invited by a member to attend the Christmas play at the Hutterite colony where she is a teacher's aide.

One of the women, Katie, showed us around after the play. The Hutterites have the latest, best industrial kitchen with walk-in warmer for baking breads and walk-in dehydrator. The day we were there, the women had made dried bullion and lots of dried noodles. The kitchen and dining are spotless!

The chapel is set up for men on one side and women on the other. The younger you are the closer you sit to the front so that the oldest members are in the back. I don't know if this is because the young people need to be paying attention or because the older folks have heard it many times!

Katie showed us her home which is one of many in a barracks type building. It was sparsely furnished with a state of the art sewing machine in the living area. I was greatly surprised to see the very bright, bold purple and white flowered bedspread. Such a contrast to the dark wardrobe she has.

This week we will get a box of produce for \$15 from an order that goes in monthly to the town of Shelby which is 50 miles from here. I'm told you never know what you will get---but of course there will be potatoes. Folks here eat a lot of starchy carbs and very few green veggies. This has certainly been an adjustment for me!

My best to you in this new year.

*Johanna Jenkins*

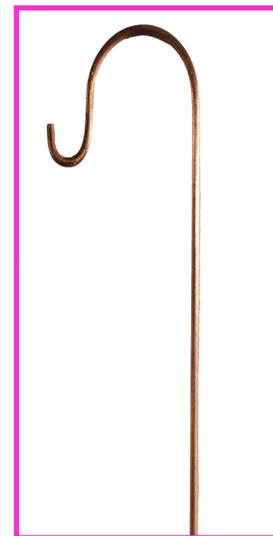
( Community Presbyterian Church )



# 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@aol.com             |
| Wanda Pflugfelder | 850-249-3396r | einholdwanda@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  | dirfft.coleman@gmail.com      |
| Suzanne Burke     | 850-867-5371  | suzannegilmoreburke@gmail.com |
| Lorraine Gilmore  | 850-867-5370  | lorrainegilmore46@gmail.com   |



**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)



**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”** meets 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 Café on Feb. 2nd 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 the first Sunday of the month at 11:30, following worship.

| Sunday  | Monday                              | Tuesday   | Wednesday                                  | Thursday   | Friday                       | Saturday                  |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 31  | 1                                   | 2   | 3  | 4  | 5                            | 6                         |
| 8:15a Worship<br>9:00am Sunday School / Choir<br>10:15a Worship<br>11:15a Coffee and Donuts<br>11:30a Confirmation Class<br>7p David Seering Concert                                | 2:30p Chapel at Superior Residences | 10a New Elder Training<br>4:30p First Together Supper | 10a Spring Break Ministry Mtg. at the Pour | 1:00p Caregiver Support Group<br>5:30p Worship Committee | 10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship |                           |
| 7   | 8                                   | 9   | 10   | 11   | 12                           | 13                        |
| Souper Bowl of Caring<br>8:15a Worship<br>9:00a Sunday School / Choir<br>10:15a Worship<br>11:15a Coffee and Donuts<br>11:30a Potluck   | 5:30p Session                       | 10a New Elder Training<br>12:30p Sara Circle          | ASH WED.<br>7:00p Jazz Worship             | 1:00p Caregiver Support Group                            | 10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship |                           |
| 14  | 15                                  | 16  | 17   | 18   | 19                           | 20                        |
| 8:15a Worship<br>9:00a Sunday School / Choir<br>10:15a Worship-Ordain and Install New Elders<br>11:15a Coffee and Donuts<br>11:30a Shepherding Team<br>Confirmation Class<br>11:30a |                                     |   | 5:30p Fellowship Dinner<br>Pork Roast      | 1:00p Caregiver Support Group                            | 10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship | 2p Presby. Women High Tea |
| 21  | 22                                  | 23  | 24   | 25   | 26                           | 27                        |
| 8:15a Worship<br>9:00a Sunday School / Choir<br>10:15a Worship<br>11:30a Confirmation<br>7p Arnold Jazz Band  | 6p Evening Women's Circle           |   |  | 1:00p Caregiver Support Group                            | 10:00a Food, Fun, Fellowship |                           |
| 28  | 29                                  | 1   | 2  | 3  | 4                            | 5                         |
| 8:15a Worship<br>9:00a Sunday School / Choir<br>10:15a Worship<br>11:15a Coffee and Donuts<br>11:30a Confirmation Class<br>7p Brian Muth Concert                                    |                                     |   |  |  |                              |                           |

# February 2016