

GOOD First Presbyterian Church of Maitland 2010 June Tidings



The Pastor Pens

by Ron Smith

Does It Really Pay to Trust and Obey God?

Although most of us do not admit it, all of us at sometime or another have considered turning away from God. Even priests, pastors and worship leaders have those moments when we get confused, lose our way and almost lose our faith. This is not a new phenomena. It is as old as our race. In fact, there is a whole Psalm written by a worship leader of the day describing just this situation.

In Psalm 73:1-2, Asaph, a temple choral leader and composer, begins with an affirmation of faith and then delivers a touching confession:

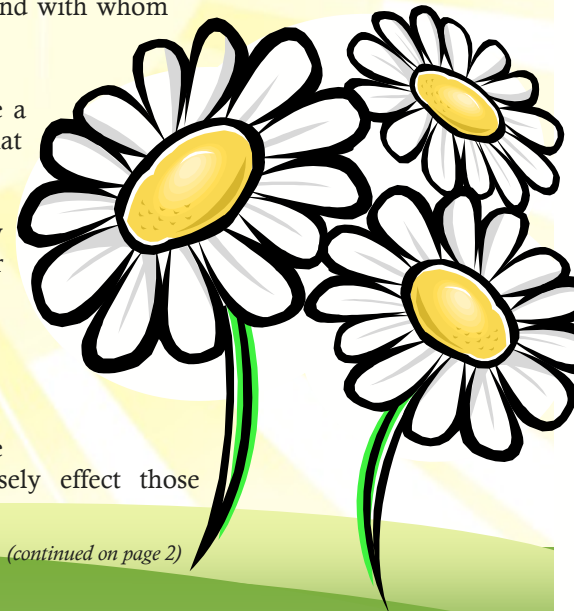
*Surely God is good to Israel to those who are pure in heart.
But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.*

In Hebrew, the word translated “foot” or “feet” includes from the knee down. The picture is this: I almost buckled; my steps nearly slipped out from under me. “My steps” in scripture always is a metaphor for ethical behavior, living our lives in conformity to Jesus Christ. In effect, Asaph is writing about a “faith crisis.” “I was about to remove the Lord from the throne of my life, to take my life into my own hands,” he is saying.

Frankly, this is always a natural thing to do. If you take your view of life from what you see around you—beautiful people, prosperous people, successful people—then your old nature, your sinful nature, your flesh, your natural self that wants what you want, when you want it, where you want it, how you want it and with whom you want it ... well, you want to emulate that.

As your eyes run down the articulate, well chosen words of Psalm 73, you see a downward movement from taking a view of life from God to judging life from what is going on around you:

- vs 3 He envies the arrogant
- vs 4 The wicked seem to prosper; they don't seem to have any struggles or health problems. (Asaph overstates the case in order to make his point.)
- vss 5-6 As a result they are proud.
- vss 7-9 They exploit people and seem to get away with it.
- vs 11 They say there is no God.
- vss 13-14 Therefore, it doesn't seem to pay to serve God and be righteous.
- vs 15 He doesn't feel he can say what he really thinks and feels because he is a spiritual leader and he does not want to adversely effect those less mature in the faith.



(continued on page 2)

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There is something wrong with a philosophy of life that is empty, even if it looks appealing for the moment. Asaph does not want to propagate the dictum that materialism should be god. Material prosperity can put food on the table, but it will never give fellowship around that table. Money can put jewels on a woman, but it can never give her love. Mammon can buy a beautiful house, but it can never buy a home. No, there is something wrong with a philosophy of life that can give food without fellowship, pearls and diamonds without love, a house without warmth and contentment.

If we take our view of life from what we read in the newspaper, see on television, or our computer screen and in the movies, we too, may conclude there is no moral governor of the universe. The non-Christian world, with its pomp and prosperity, has no place for God, for servanthood, for surrender and submission to the Creator of the universe in its thinking. Especially for those among us who are scrimping and trying to get by under financial duress and distress, quite honestly, it can be tempting to take that first step downward. It is easy to look at the wicked, the selfish and those who are evil, and be envious and even consider chucking the whole thing and behaving unethically—going for the gusto, living for the moment, doing it your way. Envy, after all, is a sin.

In verse 16, Asaph tried to understand everything. It was hard, laborious, painful work to try and think his way through it all. The New International Version uses the word “oppressive.” This same Hebrew word translated oppressive is used for the travail of a woman in labor giving birth and of a man digging the ground. Hard labor!

**"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God,
who gives generously to all without finding fault,
and it will be given to him."**

James 1:5

Finally in verse 17, we find a breakthrough!

***Till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.***

There in church, in the sacred space with God, in the sanctuary—he begins to get the big picture. He gains a larger perspective. He catches an insight, an eternal perspective, a correct perspective, God’s perspective. There sitting in a pew, he sees the eternal moral law giver. He learns that our moral God transcends all time. And, when time is finished, then moral justice will be realized on earth.

Life does not always seem fair because it is not fair. (My mother used to tell me that life is not fair. Do not expect life to be fair. The fair only comes once a year and usually for two weeks in the

fall). But God is good and in his time he will bring justice to all. It is way too easy in the rush of life to fall prey to the thinking that because God does not do my bidding, does not seem to be working my side of the street, well, I just don’t think it pays to serve God.

This view is understandable, if we live with the myth that God is supposed to be some cosmic genie to give us all our wishes. A more thoughtful approach yields this bit of wisdom, however. “All of God’s accounts are not due and payable on a certain Friday afternoon at 4 p.m.” That perspective was gained in the sanctuary for Asaph. Spending some time with God may just yield similar wisdom for us.

An object of His grace,

Ron

about Us

In the Hospital ...

Our thoughts and prayers are with those recently in the hospital:

Judy Anderson

Bill Murphrey

Paul Bailey

Betty Russell

Bill Kurtz

Frank Tibbitts

Christian Sympathy...

Christian Sympathy is extended to **Wayne & Nancy Marquis and Family** on the death of Nancy’s mother, **Mary DeMauro**, who died on May 2; to the family and friends of **Frances Stanley** who died on April 27; to **Jerry & Madge Sutcliffe** on the death of Madge’s mother, **Madge Fitzpatrick**, who died on May 19, 2010.

Please note: *Good Tidings* will not be published for the month of July. Condensed versions of announcements may be placed in the Sunday bulletin. These are due by noon on Monday. Articles for August’s newsletter are due by July 15.

Blessings from the Kitchen

The FPCMaitland Cookbook is here!



Blessings from the Kitchen, the church's new cookbook, is now on sale. Wrapped in an original cover and containing over 350 family-favorite and most-requested recipes from church events through the years, the cookbook makes a great gift for friends, relatives and of course, yourself. Cost is \$19.95 and is available in the narthex between Sunday services. Get your copy now! Proceeds go to the church's general fund to further the mission of FPCMaitland.



Unveiling & Tasting Party

May 15, 2010



College & Young Adult Ministry

Our young adults have expressed a desire to have a Christian experience that is relational and service oriented to help them seek to know Christ, serve others, and share God's love while building strong friendships.

To meet that need, we at FPCM are starting the **College and Young Adult Ministry** beginning with our first social event, **Sunday, June 6 from 4-6 p.m.** at Aloma Bowl in Winter Park.

Our first service event is scheduled for **Thursday, June 24 from 5-7:30 p.m.** as we join FPCM's Mission Outreach Ministry to help serve dinner to those in need through the Global Outreach Mission at First Baptist Church in Bithlo. We will meet here at FPCM at 4:30PM and caravan out.

Then, about every other week, over the summer, we will alternate social and service events. In September, we will transition into monthly social or service events and add weekly discipleship groups.

If you're interested in helping or want more information, please contact Mary Ann Garner at maryagarner@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-2316. Bring your friends and join us as we experience life together!

Ministry for Children & Families of FPCM

Summer Camps at FPCM PreK - 5th Grade

Dates	Camp	Hours
June 21-25	Art Camp #1 Clay & Drawing	9 a.m.—2 p.m.
June 21-25	Recreation Camp #1 Basketball & Dance	9 a.m.—Noon
June 21-July 29 Monday-Thursday	CECE Preschool Camp	9 a.m.—1 p.m.
June 28-July 1	Art Camp #2 Clay & Mixed Media	9 a.m.—2 p.m.
July 12-16	Art Camp #3 Painting & Printmaking	9 a.m.—2 p.m.
July 19-23	Mission Camp	9 a.m.—2 p.m.*
July 19-23	Recreation Camp #2 Basketball & Cheerleading	9 a.m.—3 p.m.
July 26-30	Vacation Bible School Son Rock!	9 a.m.—2 p.m.*

* early noon release option available



Facilitators

Art Camps

Cheryl Smith of I'm 4 Kids Art

Recreation Camps

Sarah Jenkins—L.A.B. Sports

Mission Camp and VBS

Abbie VanDenBerg and
the Ministry for Children & Families of FPCM

Details and registration forms available at the
Welcome Center in the narthex and church and CECE offices.

Mission Camp 3 – 2 – 1 Serve!

One of the missions we will do with the children attending Mission Camp during July 19-23 is assembling personal hygiene bags for the Central Florida Homeless Shelter. These bags allow the working population of the shelter (70% of residents!) to be able to maintain their professional appearance.

Supplies needed:

Bars of soap – small or regular size
Travel size shampoo
Travel size shaving lotion
Disposable razors
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Travel size mouthwash
Dental floss
Chapstick
Antiperspirant/deodorant
Large Freezer size zip-lock bags

Your help is greatly appreciated!

July 26-30 2010 Vacation Bible School Needs

Ministry Volunteers — Only Two More!

1 Recreation Leader

1 Craft Leader



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women hosted a birthday celebration for the organization as well as the birthday of the church by going back in history on May 2 during a special luncheon. Catered by Buck's, everyone enjoyed a lunch of baked chicken, au gratin potatoes, vegetables and birthday cake while being serenaded by the sounds of Harpist Bazaar. Table decorations included flowers wrapped in black and white images of the church buildings both old and new. The main program featured **Bob Kortz** sharing historical facts about the First Presbyterian Church of Maitland, its buildings, pastors and members. Financial gifts were also collected to go to the RISE Project at Peace Presbyterian Church of Louisville, Kentucky and to the kindergarten and child care center of Kirkuk, Iraq.

PW will take a break over the summer, however, if you are interested in joining a Circle, please contact **Jill Bolander Cohen**.

New Groups

Were you part of a small group during the Lenten Season and desire to continue with a small group? Are you looking for an opportunity to study His word in a small group setting over the summer? Do you want to build your community within the church?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, **NOW** is your time to step forward! A meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 10 at 10:30 am in the Conference Room**. For those that desire an evening small group, a meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 10 at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room**. From these meetings we will establish groups, meeting locations, times and materials. This study will be 6 sessions, with meetings held every other week. What a great opportunity to study His word and fellowship with other Christians over the summer!

Helpful Groups

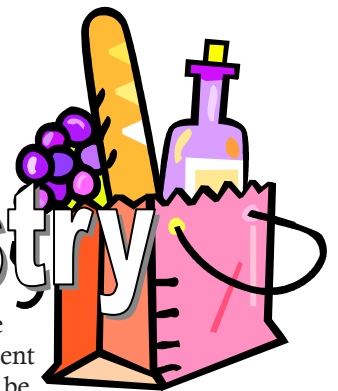
Did you know small groups not only study God's word, they actually help others when a need arises? Just ask **Walt Perego** how grateful he is to his small group members **Pete Taulbee** and **Bud Raikie**! After suffering a broken leg Walt was provided with a motorized bike. However, the steps leading from his house to the garage floor presented a problem. Also, Walt was unable to maneuver the scooter over the sliding glass door runner that blocked his way to the outside area of the house. Problem solved – Bud and Pete built two ramps; one to the garage and one over the door runner. What a blessing it was for Walt to be a part of this helpful "community."

Mid-Something's Ministry

To strengthen the relationship of our members in the 30-40 year old age group, we will be starting the **Mid-Something's Ministry** at FPCM. Over the summer we will be having a once a month social event as well as monthly service events with the College & Young Adult Ministry. Our first event will be taking place on **Sunday, June 6 at the Maitland Wine Market from 6-8 p.m.** This is an opportunity to meet with **Ron & Cheryl Smith** as well as others that are interested in this ministry.

Our group is starting in the fall and will offer weekly Bible studies/small gatherings as well as monthly social events. These events will strengthen our relationships with Christ and each other through activities that range from adult evenings out to family oriented events.

If you are interested in attending or helping with this ministry, please contact **Linda Altizer** at lindaaltizer@gmail.com or 407-657-5350. Bring your friends and join us!



FPCM's Nicaraguan Mission Trip!

On April 8, 2010, thirteen of your fellow church members met in the Orlando International Airport and boarded a plane that began a seven day journey to Nicaragua. We began our trip in Managua where Dr. Ervin and his wife, Mary, picked us up at the airport and took us to Rancho Ebenezer in Niquinomo. We stayed there the first and last night of our trip.

The farm teaches veterinary students subsistence farming techniques. This has been a highly successful teaching farm that is supported in part by our team leaders **George MacKay** and **Paul Morgan** and PATH.

After a very informative tour of the farm and several fantastic fresh meals, we continued our travels to Leon where we stayed in an interdenominational retreat house. Our lodging was close to the clinic in Somotillo where we worked for two

days along side three Nicaraguan doctors and three nurses that were part of our team. We saw 144 patients, most suffering from parasites, arthritis, high blood pressure and many other ailments. We also visited and delivered supplies to local farms where graduates of Rancho Ebenezer live and support there families applying the techniques they learned.

The farms are two acre plots where they grow household vegetables in rubber tire casings with a piece of tin flooring covering the hole. Composted soil is placed in these tires and vegetables such as tomatoes, squash, peppers, and radishes are grown. These tire "mini gardens" are suspended above ground to keep the vegetables out of reach of foraging animals.

We inspected the chicken pens and elevated goat pens. In order to prevent

them from getting worms and parasites, penned up goats don't walk on the ground. The primary advantage of elevated pens is to collect manure, which can be incorporated into compost with all sorts of organic materials. We also attended the local Baptist church for a very inspiring and lively service on Sunday evening.

We then traveled to Matagalpa where we stayed the night in a local hotel after touring the Vida Joven camp where we stayed on previous mission trips. We visited the medical clinic near the camp that was opened in 2006.

While in Matagalpa we went to a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center so the nurses could treat some patients. We then headed to Granada for a much deserved and needed dinner and down time before going back to Rancho for our last night in Nicaragua.

It was such a joy to see God at work through each of us and through the lives of each of the Nicaraguans that we helped. There are so many positive things happening in this beautiful country, from Rancho to the farms and clinics to the Nicaraguans themselves.

We are honored and humbled to be part of this great mission and thank God for His guidance and His patience that we were able to individually touch and hopefully change a lot of lives for the better.

Plans are already beginning for a return trip in July 2011.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

A Special Thank You from PHP, SDOP and PDA!

Your \$2,236 contributed to **One Great Hour of Sharing** will provide both direct aid and self help here and abroad to meet acute needs in several ways:

- The **Presbyterian Hunger Program** funds direct food aid, clean water supplies, improved family nutrition and income generation alternatives.
- **Self Development of People** grants empower poor people to address specific needs of their group or community.
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** aids in initial and long-term recovery from loss of property and displacement of families. (Over \$1,000,000 was sent for Hurricane Relief in Haiti.)

Thank you for reaching out to those in need, enabling people to help themselves.



- 1 **Tuesday**
6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. - Council Meeting
7:00 p.m. - All Church Night
- 2 **Wednesday**
9:30 a.m. - Quilting Group
1:30 p.m. - Bridge group
- 3 **Thursday**
1:30 p.m. - Senior Fellowship

- 6 **Sunday — Worship Services & Sunday School***
6:30 p.m. - E26 (Middle & High School Youth)
- 7 **Monday**
8:45 a.m. - Prayer Group
7:00 p.m. - Praise Team
- 8 **Tuesday**
6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
7:00 p.m. - Stephen Ministry
- 9 **Wednesday**
1:30 p.m. - Bridge group
- 10 **Thursday**
1:30 p.m. - Senior Fellowship
- 12 **Saturday**
8:30 a.m. - New Member Class

- 13 **Sunday — Worship Services & Sunday School***
6:30 p.m. - E26 (Middle & High School Youth)
- 15 **Tuesday**
6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
- 16 **Wednesday**
9:30 a.m. - Quilting Group
1:30 p.m. - Bridge group
- 17 **Thursday**
1:30 p.m. - Senior Fellowship

- 20 **Sunday — Worship Services & Sunday School***
Blood Drive
- 21 **Monday**
8:45 a.m. - Prayer Group
9:00 a.m. - Art Camp
7:00 p.m. - Session Meeting
- 22 **Tuesday**
6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
9:00 a.m. - Art Camp

- 23 **Wednesday**
9:00 a.m. - Art Camp
1:30 p.m. - Bridge group
 - 24 **Thursday**
1:30 p.m. - **Maintain Your Brain**
 - 25 **Friday**
9:00 a.m. - Art Camp

 - 27 **Sunday — Worship Services & Sunday School***
 - 28 **Monday**
8:45 a.m. - Prayer Group
9:00 a.m. - Art Camp
 - 29 **Tuesday**
6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
9:00 a.m. - Art Camp
 - 30 **Wednesday**
9:00 a.m. - Art Camp
1:30 p.m. - Bridge group
- * 8:00 a.m. Early Bird- Traditional
9:30 a.m. Contemporary
11:00 a.m. Traditional

Share Wednesday Evenings this summer with the Smiths!



Members of the congregation are invited to attend a dessert social with **Ron & Cheryl Smith** on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:00, this summer. Ron & Cheryl would like to give all members of the church the opportunity to let them get to know you and for you to get to know them. These sessions will also give you an opportunity to ask questions you have about the life, work, worship and leadership of the church. Sign up on the white board in the narthex or call the church office (407-644-3455).

Locations and Hosts:

- June 2 **Pete & Ann Taulbee**
2311 Fieldingwood Road, Maitland
- June 9 **Steve & Melanie Ruta**
32 Minnehaha Circle, Maitland
- June 16 **Gloria Hatcher & Doris Houck**
802 Thistle Lane, Maitland
- June 23 **Mark Calabrese & Laurie McManus**
401 E. Robinson Street, Orlando
- June 30 **Rusty & Linda Altizer**
1760 Choctaw Trail, Maitland

If you would like to host a gathering for your neighborhood for a Wednesday in July, please call the church office.

Blood Drive Report

David Anderton
Travis Howard
Dan LaMay
Jim Memory
Rick Taylor
John Williamson

Our Blood Drive on Sunday, April 25, was well attended. We had 21 donors come out in support of saving lives. They are:

Nancy Beltran
Lynn Hupp
Wayne Marquis
Becky Memory
Charlie West

Carol Blevins
Scott Hupp
Jeff McLain
Bud Raiké
Anne Williams

Amy Chadbourne
Donna Joiner
Connie Memory
Pete Taulbee
Frances Williamson

Congratulations to **Frances Williamson** for becoming a ONE GALLON DONOR and to **Charlie West** on becoming a THREE GALLON DONOR! Our next Blood Drive will be here at the church on **Sunday, June 20**, please mark your calendars!

Below is another impressive Donor Story:

When Sandy Belflower donated her first pint of blood in 1979 it was for a friend's mother who had been in a serious car accident. She continued to donate blood after the accident and 30 years and 87 gallons of blood later, Belflower still arrives at Florida's Blood Centers on a regular basis. She knows when she walks through the door she is going to be greeted with a smile and a warm blanket for her to huddle under for the next two hours. After donating her first nine gallons of blood, Belflower started donating aphaeresis. It's a process that provides the most precious components used when treating cancer patients—platelets and plasma. This technology allows donors to give a larger quantity of specific cells than a standard donation and it takes about two hours. It can be repeated every two to three weeks and Belflower says if she can help one person by donating blood she can help others with her platelets. In fact, she was a direct donor to a 21-year-old suffering from cancer. Belflower says too many people wait until there is a national tragedy such as 9-11 before they'll donate blood. She says tragedies occur every day and if she can help just one person then it's all worthwhile. Plus, she feels rejuvenated after donating and enjoys seeing the staff who are always waiting and ready with her blanket in hand. Belflower says they make her feel so good she hopes she can make someone else feel good.

Good Tidings

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