



SEPTEMBER 2010

# good tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Maitland

## The Pastor Pens

by Ron Smith

### Prayer: Does it Matter?

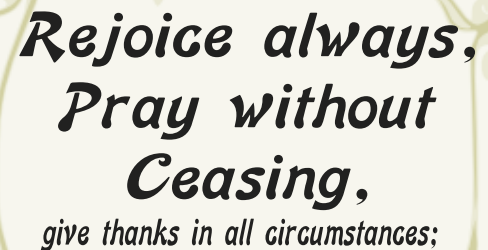
The God of the Bible is the God who answers prayer. If you have followed Christ very long, you have your own witness to share about answered prayer. Prayer is not just something we learn about; rather it is something that we should roll up our sleeves and actually practice, actually grow in our ability to pray. Again, if you have been following Christ very long, you know that two major means of Grace that have been given to us for our daily spiritual growth and edification are the Bible and prayer. Prayer is a core skill for anyone who follows Jesus Christ. It is a skill that must be practiced, and we need to return to it because it is very basic.

Oswald Chambers in his classic devotional book, "My Utmost for His Highest," gives us a head start for correct thinking about prayer:

"We often think of the Cross of Christ as something we have to get through, yet we get *through* for the purpose of getting *into* it. The Cross represents only one thing for us—complete, entire, absolute identification with the Lord Jesus Christ—and there is nothing in which this identification is more real to us than in prayer.

"Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him." (Matthew 6:8) Then why should we ask? The point of prayer is not to get answers from God, but to have perfect and complete oneness with Him. If we pray only because we want answers, we will become irritated and angry with God. We receive an answer every time we pray, but it does not always come in the way we expect, and our spiritual irritation shows our refusal to identify ourselves truly with our Lord in prayer. We are not here to prove that God answers prayer, but to be living trophies of God's grace.

(Continued on page 2)



**Rejoice always,  
Pray without  
Ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances;**

I Thessalonians 5:16-17

341 North Orlando Avenue, Maitland, Florida 32751

# About Us

(Continued from page 1)

“...I do not say to you that I shall ask the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you...” (John 16:26-27). Have you reached such a level of intimacy with God that the only thing that can account for your prayer life is that it has become one with the prayer life of Jesus Christ? Has our Lord exchanged your life with His vital life? If so, then “in that day” you will be so closely identified with Jesus that there will be no distinction.

When prayer seems to be unanswered, beware of trying to place the blame on someone else. That is always a trap of Satan. When you seem to have no answer, there is always a reason—God uses these times to give you deep personal instruction, and it is not for anyone else but you.”

If any one of us is to know Christ intimately and grow in Christ intentionally, then our ability and practice of prayer is absolutely essential. Frankly, there will be no intimacy and no maturity without the practice of prayer. Therefore, I hope that every member of our congregation will make every effort to be present on the six Sundays beginning on September 12 for our Worship services around prayer and will also participate in one of our numerous small group studies each week, for those six weeks, to delve deeper in discussion and learning about prayer.

Finally, after our six weeks of services of worship around prayer, and our studies about prayer, I hope that you will get in the game and join us for our ninety days of prayer in one of several hundred triads that will be meeting around the community. This is likely to prove the most significant step in spiritual growth that you have had in some time. Don't let it go by.

## In the Hospital ...

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

<b>Judy Anderson</b>	<b>Joe Evans</b>	<b>Bill Murphrey</b>
<b>Bob Neff</b>	<b>Allan Robertson</b>	<b>Frank Tibbitts</b>

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Elizabeth & Robert Johnson** on the birth of their daughter, **Madison Lee Johnson**, who was born on June 24, 2010.

Congratulations to **Charlie & Jacque (Frutchey) Davis** who were married on July 27, 2010 in Burnsville, North Carolina.

Congratulations to **Ron & Cheryl Smith** on the birth their granddaughter, **London Reese Smith**, born to Ashley & Pamela Smith on August 17, 2010.

## Christian Sympathy...

Christian Sympathy is extended to **Lamar Williams** on the death of her husband, **Dick**, who died on August 6; and to the family and friends of **Ron Clayton**, who died on August 14, 2010

## Church Photo Directory



## Attention Members and Friends of FPCM!

We are planning to have a new pictorial directory for our church. Work will start in October. We NEED and WANT EVERYONE to plan to participate. Sign up sheets will be at the church on Sundays starting September 12, through Sunday, October 10. You

must have an appointment to have your portrait taken.

Portrait shooting dates and times are:

October 18-21 (M-Th) from 2:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

October 28-29 (Th-F) from 2:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

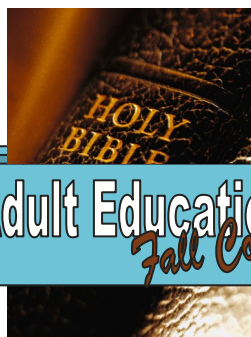
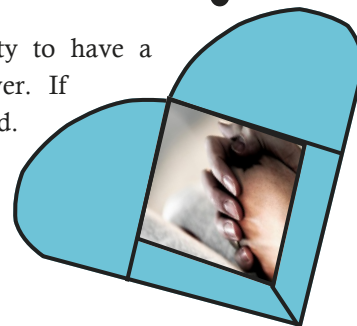
October 30 (Sat) from 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

We need two people each day during shooting days. If you will be out of town on the above dates, please inform us where you will be and we will try to find a nearby church who could take your portrait and forward it to us. We also plan to incorporate a services/business directory!

**All this and it is free!**

# Prayer: Opening Your Heart to God Small Groups Forming NOW

**Beginning Sunday, September 12**, the entire congregation will be given the opportunity to have a conversation in worship and in small groups with God on the subject of prayer, through prayer. If you have not yet signed up for a small group, please prayerfully consider becoming involved. There are still groups available to join. Visit **Marjie McDonough** at the white marker board in the north end of the narthex and find a group that fits your schedule. The six weeks study begins the week of September 12 and continues through October 23. Books are available when you sign up.



**A new set of adult-education courses will begin in September!** The Adult Sunday School Class will begin an in-depth study of the **Book of Genesis**. Led by the Andertons and Sutcliffes, the class will use several different references. The class will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. More details will follow.

**Pastor Labert Altemose** will continue a course that is exploring the **Gospel of Mark**, the first Gospel written.

The course uses the book "Mark's Gospel from Scratch," by Donald Griggs and Charles Myers. Come and get a fresh perspective on the life of Jesus. We meet on **Tuesdays** from **10:30 a.m. until Noon** in the Conference Room.

**Beginning September 29** and running eight weeks until **November 17**,

**Wednesday Night Live! returns** with three adult education courses each night!

**At 5 p.m.**, **Pastor Labert Altemose** will lead a course titled **World Religions 101 – The Basics**. The course will contain discussion and conversation about four of the great world religions, namely Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. We will devote two sessions to obtaining a basic understanding each of these religions.

**At 7 p.m.**, **Pastor Ron Smith** will lead a course titled **B-I-B-L-E, Is That A Book for Me?** This course will contain an overview of the entire Bible and an introduction to the beginning of the Old Testament. The material will be interesting, informative and humorous. It is designed to help you use the Bible as a guide and as discipline for your spiritual maturity. The cost for materials will be \$15. Sign up at the Welcome kiosk no later than September 20. Please take note: This class will begin on Wednesday, October 6, 2010.

**At 7 p.m.**, **Mary Scott Singer** will lead a course titled **Helping Families Succeed: A Guide to the 40 Developmental Assets**. This seminar is designed for adults interested in developing listening and relational skills within their families. The Developmental Assets are simply building blocks to insure that kids and youth grow resilient and strong, with barriers to at risk behavior. Schools alone cannot provide the Developmental Assets crucial to a child's success. This course will help parents learn what they can do to help their children.

Remember, there will be an adult-appropriate meal every night at **6:15 p.m.** Meeting times are coordinated with Logos and youth programs, with child care and with the Music Department rehearsal schedule.

Finally, the lively discussion on a wide range of topics will continue during **Lunch with Labert** on Thursdays at noon in the Conference Room.

# Ministry for Children & Families

**Become a Mentor, a Friend, an Advocate!**

Volunteers Needed for  
*Wednesday Night Live: LOGOS program*

Boys Bible Study Teacher	5:10 p.m.	-	6:00 p.m.
Table Parents	6:00 p.m.	-	7:15 p.m.
Worship Skills Teacher	5:45 p.m.	-	6:15 p.m.
Recreation Leader	4:45 p.m.	-	6:15 p.m.
Craft Leader	4:45 p.m.	-	6:15 p.m.
Kitchen Helpers	4:30 p.m.	-	7:30 p.m.

FALL session running **September 29 – November 17, 2010** and the WINTER session running **January 26 – March 17, 2011**. Contact Abbie VanDenBerg at [avandenberga@fpcmaitland.org](mailto:avandenberga@fpcmaitland.org) or call at 407-644-3455 ext. 328.

## VBS 2010 — Resounding Success!

At the end of July, FPCM hosted over 120 children, aged four to ten, for a week of *Son Rock Kids Camp*—Vacation Bible School. The children spent the week learning the meaning of “Jesus Walking on the Water,” doing fun crafts, playing group games in the gym, and learning the VBS songs and moves. A snack kitchen served kid favorites, and the *After Program* fed more than half the children a healthy lunch and provided more recreational games. Over **twenty-two** adult members and **twenty-five** youth participated in the program. Thanks to everyone who helped, especially **Cheryl Anderson** for her music skill and tireless, creative energy!



**C.E.C.E.**  
Center for Early Childhood Education

**CECE is back from summer vacation!** As the 2010-11 school year begins, there is always such a sense of anticipation in the air as our teachers return with all the new and exciting activities they have planned for the upcoming school year.

**The CECE staff is made up of sixteen dedicated teachers** who care for and mentor the children in their classes. Throughout the year our teachers are given excellent opportunities to continue their education in the field of early childhood by attending conferences, hosting seminars, participating in the Florida Children’s Forum scholarship/grant program and attending classes at Seminole State College. Please come by for a visit and see this dynamic group of people at work with our children.

**Spaces are still available in some of our classes.** For more information about our program, please contact **Lynn Brown** or **MaryAnne LoSasso** at 407-628-1966 or stop by the CECE office for a tour. Visit the church web site to learn more about the exciting preschool program.

# Mid<sup>30s-40s</sup> Ministry Somethings

If you are in your 30s or 40s, bring the family and join us at Maitland’s Lil 500 Go Cart track followed by a potluck dinner at **Linda & Rusty Altizer’s** on **Sunday, September 19**.

We’ll meet at the Lil 500 at 4:30 p.m. for some racing, then go back to the Altizers’ house for dinner around 5-5:15 p.m. If racing is not your thing, just meet at the Altizers, house around 5:15 p.m!

We’ll have a potluck, so bring something to share. We’ll provide dessert and drinks. The address is **1760 Choctaw Trail, Maitland**. Questions? Call Linda at 407-657-5350, or e-mail her at [lindaaltizer@gmail.com](mailto:lindaaltizer@gmail.com).



# E26 *Uniting youth in Christ's love through service, with fun and fellowship*

## Twelve middle school students, four junior leaders and four adult leaders braved the unknown in this year's Plunge. The bus finally stopped at *White Water Express* in Ducktown, Tennessee. A half mile from North Carolina and five minutes from Georgia, this beautiful, Christian camp was nestled between mountains and pine trees. We started each day in quiet time and devotion studying the mysteries of God including: trust, time, life and death, and love. In true Plunge form, "Plungers" had no idea what to expect and each day unfolded as an adventure that included: a high ropes course, a low ropes course, a seventy foot high swing, horse back riding, swimming in the Upper Ocoee, paint ball, an eighty foot slip and slide, white water rafting on the Middle Ocoee, star gazing and lots of kick ball, four square and football games. (Mary-Allen can neither confirm nor deny that "Plungers" were subject to practical jokes, including looking for fossils in the Upper Ocoee with their flashlights in broad daylight, or hunting for chickens for dinner.) Many of the staff at White Water Express made a point to find Mary-Allen to compliment our youth. FPCM should know that time and time again E26 is complemented for living out their Christ centered values through their manners, kindness, and service to those who serve us.

# The Plunge



**September 11th:** E26 will be enjoying Christian music and fellowship at Rock the Universe. After a night enjoying Christian Music at Universal Studios Orlando, we will have a lock-in in the FLC, and will share in FPCM worship at 8:00 a.m. on the 12th. Space is limited, so let Mary-Allen know ASAP if you are planning on attending.

**September 19th:** Thanks to the Hospitality Ministry Group, at the **Youth Appreciation Potluck**, we will be sharing our stories of the summer adventures including North Carolina Mission trip, VBS and The Plunge. All of the congregation is invited after the 11 o'clock service.

**September 29th: WNL-Logos begins!**

## Get Involved

If you would like to be a youth leader or help out with this amazing group of youth known as E26, please contact Mary-Allen ([youth@fpcmaitland.org](mailto:youth@fpcmaitland.org)). It is truly a gift and blessing to serve these amazing teens!

## Back to School Bash

On August 22, we welcomed the sixth grade class into E26 at our Back to School Bash. The Smith family were gracious hosts, and we had a fantastic time! If you know of a youth who would like to be on our mailing list, email Mary-Allen at [youth@fpcmaitland.org](mailto:youth@fpcmaitland.org). Please provide their name, address and email.

Between Voices of Canna, E26, and WNL-Logos, we are full steam ahead for a great year. Here are some dates to remember:

## Upcoming Events

**August 29th:** E26 started its fall schedule as did Voices of Canna (VOC) and Youth Band. If you are interested in serving God through your musical talents, contact Mike Goodenow in the church office for VOC and talk to Patrick Griffin for band.

## from the Music Ministry



**Chancel Choir** and **Adult Bell Choir** began rehearsals again on Wednesday, August 25, 2010. Bells meet from **6 to 7 p.m.** Chancel Choir is from **7:30 to 9:00 p.m.** All singers and/or ringers are welcome to come and check us out. Both choirs rehearse in the sanctuary. There will be large doses of satisfaction in worship leadership and the rewards are just out of this world! Come join the fun!

**Voices of Cana**, the singing choir for all youth in grades 6-12, began the new year on Sunday, August 29, 2010. VOC meets on Sunday evenings from **5:30 to 6:15** in the sanctuary. Bring your voice, your enthusiasm and your best friend if you want.

## Healing and Transition (HAT) Update

**Frank Coar**, one of the recent additions to FPCM's Ministry of Mission Group, has accepted a key role of Program Director for HAT of Central Florida. Frank will serve as HAT contact with Station of Hope (SOH) churches in Central Florida. SOH churches commit to become **Welcoming Churches** to men and women returnees selected from Chaplain's Christian dorms or nurture cells and affirming their wish to become responsible citizens. Frank also will coordinate an intensive two week reentry program based on individual needs of returnees.

**Pastors Luncheon**—On August 13, seventy-five pastors or their representatives from Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties learned about having their churches become SOH churches for returning citizens. Two trained mentors from SOH churches are assigned to each returnee for a period of six months to a year. SOH churches make a special effort to welcome returnees at church services. The program will begin with limited numbers of returnees around the first of September.

**Volunteer Needs at FPCM** are for two or three additional women members to commit to training as mentors for women returnees. For additional information please contact **Kathy Singer** (407-595-5013-cell), **Frank Coar** (407-924-9721) or **Ray Crickenberger** (407-834-3610).

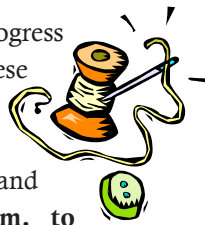
For additional information please visit <http://hatprogram.org> or FPCM's site at <http://fpcmaitland.org/?p=2292>. To keep abreast of latest HAT progress, you are invited to attend monthly update and support meetings on the third Thursday of each month alternating between day and evening meeting times. (Place and time TBA.)

**Save the Date — October 23, 2010 –  
for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk**

## The Quilting/Sewing Group Needs YOU!

Do you like to sew? Do you like to do knitting? Do you like to do needlework? Do you like to quilt? Do you have some unfinished projects that you have been meaning to finish? Do any of these questions make you look in a drawer or closet for those unfinished ideas calling you?

Now your unfinished works-in-progress can be completed! Gather up these ideas and plans and come join the **Quilting/Sewing Group** in the Family Life Center on the **first and third Wednesdays** from **9:30 a.m. to noon**.



This group has made bags for wheelchairs, gowns for babies and adults, baby quilts, lap quilts, appliquéd and done needlepoint and cross-stitching, worked on many more community service efforts, AND still find time to work on items of their own and offer their help and skills to fellow sewers.

Whether you have no experience or need to refresh your experience, it is a great way to learn, try something new and expand your skills. We are able to get in some fun and talking while we work.

For additional information or questions, please call **Carolyn Byrnes** at 407-644-1982 or **Barbara Miller** at 407-644-0139.



# September 2010

## 1 Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. - Boot Camp
- 9:30 a.m. - Quilting Group
- 1:30 p.m. - Bridge Group
- 6:00 p.m. - Adult Bell Choir
- 7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

## 2 Thursday

- 12:00 p.m. - *Lunch with Labert*
- 1:30 p.m. - Senior Fellowship
- 6:30 p.m. - Beth Moore Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. - MSO Rehearsal

## 5 Sunday — Worship Services & Sunday School\*

### 6 Monday - Office Closed—LABOR DAY

#### Tuesday

- 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. - *Tuesdays with Labert*
- 6:00 p.m. - Chair Council
- 7:00 p.m. - All Church Ministry Night

## 8 Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. - Boot Camp
- 1:30 p.m. - Bridge group
- 6:00 p.m. - Adult Bell Choir
- 7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

## 9 Thursday

- 12:00 p.m. - *Lunch with Labert*
- 1:30 p.m. - Senior Fellowship
- 6:30 p.m. - Beth Moore Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. - MSO Rehearsal

## 12 Sunday — Worship Services & Sunday School\*

### BLOOD DRIVE!

- 8:30 a.m. - New Member Class

## 13 Monday

- 7:00 a.m. - Boot Camp
- 8:45 a.m. - Prayer Group
- 7:00 p.m. - Praise Team

## 14 Tuesday

- 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. - *Tuesdays with Labert*
- 6:00 p.m. - Stephen Ministry

## 15 Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. - Boot Camp
- 9:30 a.m. - Quilting Group
- 1:30 p.m. - Bridge group
- 6:00 p.m. - Adult Bell Choir
- 7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

## 16 Thursday

- 1:30 p.m. - Maintain Your Brain
- 7:00 p.m. - MSO Rehearsal

## 19 Sunday — Worship Services & Sunday School\*

- 12:15 a.m. - Potluck dinner

## 20 Monday

- 7:00 a.m. - Boot Camp
- 8:45 a.m. - Prayer Group
- 7:00 p.m. - Praise Team
- 7:00 p.m. - Session Meeting

## 21 Tuesday

- 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. - *Tuesdays with Labert*

## 22 Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. - Boot Camp
- 1:30 p.m. - Bridge group
- 6:00 p.m. - Adult Bell Choir
- 7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir

## 23 Thursday

- 12:00 p.m. - *Lunch with Labert*
- 1:30 p.m. - Senior Fellowship
- 7:00 p.m. - MSO Rehearsal

## 26 Sunday — Worship Services & Sunday School\*

- 12:00 p.m. - PW Council Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. - Voices of Cana
- 6:30 p.m. - E26 (Middle & High School Youth)

## 27 Monday

- 7:00 a.m. - Boot Camp
- 8:45 a.m. - Prayer Group
- 7:00 p.m. - Praise Team

## 28 Tuesday

- 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. - *Tuesdays with Labert*

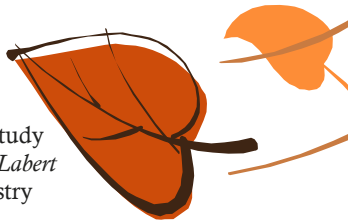
## 29 Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. - Boot Camp
- 1:30 p.m. - Bridge group

## 30 Thursday

- 12:00 p.m. - *Lunch with Labert*
- 1:30 p.m. - Senior Fellowship
- 7:00 p.m. - MSO Rehearsal

- \* 8:00 a.m. - Early Bird- Traditional
- 9:30 a.m. - Contemporary
- 11:00 a.m. - Traditional



## Blood Drive Report

Sunday, **September 12**, will be our next **BLOOD DRIVE** here at the church, from 8:00 - 1:00. The need for **O negative blood** is **CRITICAL** right now to keep up with transfusions. O negative blood is universal, which means it can go to any patient in our local hospitals regardless of their blood type. We hope to see many of you joining us to give the *Gift of Life!*

Here are two donor stories we would like to share:

When Maureen's father passed away, she never imagined four days later her mother would be diagnosed with leukemia. She needed several blood transfusions right away and receives platelets regularly. To help other families going through similar situations, Maureen and six of her family members got on the Big Red Bus the day of her father's funeral and gave the *Gift of Life*. The Horswood family, from Ocala, saw the impact the blood and platelets had on their family and they wanted to honor their parents by improving the quality of life for another family in need.

Rosalind is a dedicated donor who gives platelets every two weeks in Lady Lake. She donated blood for the first time in college for her friend's sister who was having heart surgery. She became a regular donor after learning that she had **O negative blood** and eventually began donating platelets. Rosalind continued donating as she moved across the country. She donated her fiftieth gallon Independence Day weekend and celebrated by wearing her best red, white and blue attire. Rosalind says at the rate she's going it'll take her ten and half more years to reach one hundred gallons.



**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!** We will be starting the activity to send boxes to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan again. If you know someone to whom we should be sending boxes, please contact them and ask what they need. We will need his/her APO address and the address of the Chief Sergeant Major (CSM) for the unit. Boxes sent to Marine units are sent to FPO addresses and in care of the unit's Chaplain, so we need that information. Please contact **Bud Raike** with the information.

# Good Tidings

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