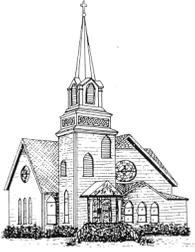


February, 2014

Volume 36 No. 2



# The Church Mouse



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**Chatting with Charlie – February 2014**

February began with Scout Sunday at our worship service followed by the annual Spaghetti Dinner. The leaders and scouts of our Boy Scout Troop #113 again led an excellent moving service. There were patriotic hymns from our hymnbook and special music by the choir. It truly was a celebration of God and Country. The Spaghetti dinner was delicious and well attended as usual and a bargain at only \$5. February is now nearing an end and March is just around the corner.

On Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the beginning of Lent with a fellowship supper at 6:00 pm followed by our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. It is a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. We must be willing to die to our old selves if we are to be raised to new life with Christ. We are called to acknowledge and confront our mortality - individually and corporately. This is symbolized through the imposition of ashes—placing a cross of ashes on one's forehead – as the words: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Gen. 3:19) are repeated again and again. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die.

The fleshly hunger that we feel as the result of our fasting reminds us of the spiritual hunger that we need to feel to be truly alive. Hunger for God is our truly healthy state. An empty stomach gives us hope that our hearts may become empty enough to receive God who is our only satisfying food.

We have the opportunity to give alms to help people in need or distress. We can give money and visit the sick, the lonely, people in prison. As we reach out to others, something amazing happens - we are made a bit more compassionate and our lives are changed forever.

Perhaps we pray more than usual during the forty days of Lent. As we pray we discover the poverty of our prayer, the emptiness of our words and the shallowness of our silence. Hopefully we recognize the generosity of God, who gladly accepts that we want to pray. In the end we find that through our prayers God has changed us and let us recognize ourselves for who we really are. I hope you and a friend can join us on the 5<sup>th</sup> to begin our Lenten journey together.

Your brother in Christ, Charlie

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2014

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM with a soup supper preceding in Douglas Hall at 6 PM

New shelves were installed in the kitchen cabinets.

We are continuing our search for a Choir Director..

The new church website will be accessible in early March along with our Sunday morning worship services. .

Respectfully submitted by Sue Cordle, Clerk of Session



**ASH**  
**Wednesday**  
**Supper & Service**

Wednesday, March 5th  
Fellowship Supper  
6:00 p.m.  
Followed by  
Worship Service  
7:00 p.m.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014 WINTER STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING

By: Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick, Stated Clerk

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

We held our Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, February 2, 2014, at the historic Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Augustine, Florida. The weather was warm, and the pre-meeting fellowship was especially delightful. Dudley Weaver welcomed us on Memorial's behalf.

We were called to worship with the sound of a magnificent pipe organ and enjoyed congregational singing, prayer, the Word, and the Lord's Supper. We read the names of each teaching and ruling elder who had died during 2013 and gave thanks to God for their lives and their service. Moderator Gabe Goodman brought the morning message after portions of Acts 15 were delivered as a Reader's Theater. The message included a call for both unity and reformation in our presbytery – "Reformation is the work of God among us. And it must begin in each church ... one church at a time rediscovering our mission to make disciples who worship joyfully, serve with compassion, and grow in Christ all their lives."

There were approximately 115 teaching elders and commissioners in attendance; significantly more than half were ruling elders. We received \$1,048 in the morning offering, which was designated for the Jamaica Ecumenical Mutual Mission.

Although the meeting was concluded by the time designated for lunch, it included a full agenda. Highlights of the presentations and actions include:

- Reception of new or newly installed teaching elder members: Charlie Rumpel, the pastor of Weirsdale Presbyterian Church; Amy Hunt, the pastor of Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville; M.B. Choi, the pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville; and Diane Wilson, a former military chaplain who has moved within the bounds of our presbytery and has become actively involved in the life of the St. Giles congregation in Jacksonville.
- Reception of Melanie Baum as a candidate for ministry. Melanie's family was present as Melanie spoke at the meeting and received prayer and a warm welcome.
- Approval of a memorial resolution for the life of Rev. James Hampton Goodner (November 15, 1920 to October 14, 2013). Family members were present for the presentation and thanksgiving.
- Approval of the 2014 operating budget (posted on our website under the "Resources" menu item).
- Approval of an overture for the 221st General Assembly that calls for lifting travel restrictions for United States citizens traveling to Cuba.
- Approval of the purpose of our transition team, which is to assist the presbytery with "finding its identity, mission, and focus as the gathered saints of St. Augustine Presbytery, and making recommendations regarding the structure and funding necessary to bring about the new vision." The proposal that was approved included a description of history, milestones, and process (the purpose document will be posted on our website under the "Resources" menu item).
- Oral reports from Presbyterian Women (Patti Phillips, Moderator), the Mutual Mission Committee (Richard Kirk, Moderator), Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center (Jim Montgomery, Board President), and Transitional Executive Presbyter Steve Benz.
- Election of six 221st General Assembly Commissioners, one Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD), and three alternates (see chart below for names).
- Election of individuals to several presbytery offices, including treasurer and president of the corporations (see chart below for names).
- Election of a new commissioner to the Administrative Commission for the Mandarin Presbyterian Church and approval of new designated co-moderators.
- Dismissal of the Faith Administrative Commission with an expression of gratitude for its service.
- Approval of the December 31, 2013 roll of teaching elders, commissioned ruling elders, and ruling elders certified to be commissioned, and a Christian educator.
- Receipt of additional reports from the stated clerk, committees and commissions (including administrative commissions) of the presbytery and approved proposed actions.
- Installation of our new Moderator, Cynthia Graham, following remarks by our outgoing Moderator, Gabe Goodman.

The Spring Stated Meeting will be held at Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center on May 6, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.

# BOY SCOUT SUNDAY



The Lord gave us a glorious day for the Annual Boy Scout Worship Service & Spaghetti Dinner.

The dinner was a huge success with 4000 tickets being sold and with the scouts and approximately 70 people assisting in the preparation and serving of 2,646 meals inclusive of our fellowship after the service, carry out, Monday's delivered meals and the serving of the Sandy Acres Baptist Church. Those meals were prepared with 800 pounds of noodles and 250 gallons of sauce!!

Good job and thanks to everyone involved for their wonderful gift to the community!



## WARNING!

Your **9 volt battery** is a fire hazard if stored improperly because the positive and negative posts are so close to each other. If the ends come in contact with anything metal such as foil, aluminum, paperclips, etc., then this can cause the battery to heat up and ignite a fire.

It is suggested that you keep batteries in the original packing when storing or keep the ends covered. When disposing, it is best to cover the posts with electrical tape so that nothing can come in contact with them in your trash bin. Do this prevent a fire in your home or business.



### A REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Your help is needed as a volunteer driver. There are occasions when one of your friends in the congregation needs help getting to an appointment or to the grocery or some other place of importance. You could make a difference by driving them.



The Deacons are not asking for a routine commitment—just occasional assistance.

Please call Ilene Newton at 352-603-2848 or the church office at 821-2757 to help out.

### GARAGE & BAKE SALE MARCH 29th

Keep in mind the upcoming sale on March 29th. Go through your homes and think about all that stuff you haven't used in a long time that is sitting in the closets and cabinets or in a corner of a room or in the storage shed. Wouldn't it be great to get it "out of there" and free up some space!! Donate it for the garage sale.

And while you are thinking about it, bake some items to sell and let us know what time you have available to help with setting up and with monitoring the day of the sale. The proceeds go toward a new roof for Douglas Hall.

There will be a meeting at 10:00 AM Saturday, March 1, for all volunteers and donators.

Call Marlys at 352-430-1727.

### SIGN UP FOR ART CLASS!

Be sure to let Diana Harris know if you will be attending her art class on Saturday, March 22th. She will be teaching oil paint on canvas. \$10.00 for the class furnishes you with all needed supplies.



Call her at 352-425-4351 and plan to have a great time!

### GIFTING THROUGH THE NEW YEAR

1. The green forms for **Altar flowers** are in the Narthex. What a lovely donation to the worship service when you pick a week and remember or honor a loved one. Still only \$25.00!
2. The **Community of Gratitude Food Pantry** and **Love Inc Gas Cans** can always use a refill. Bring non-perishable food and personal care items and place them in the basket in **Douglas Hall**. These items are being placed in the Narthex. Then drop some of that heavy change in your pocket into the gas cans. Your generosity has been overwhelming and both missions look forward to your continued assistance.

Daylight-Saving  
Time Begins



**CLOCKS FORWARD MARCH 9TH!!**

# Operation Shoebox

## FROM THE TROOPS

Many notes of appreciation have been sent to Operation Shoebox by our troops stationed overseas. Here is one recently received:

*SGT Bolte*

# Thank you We appreciate your kindness

We wanted to send our gratitude for the care packages you sent. It is a great feeling to know that we have support from our loved ones, friends, family, and good people like yourselves. Being away from home is difficult, especially during the holidays, however your care packages with nice "touches" from home brought much joy and many smiles, especially during the holidays. Thank you so much for the delicious treats, trinkets and useful items you sent. We have no words to describe how much we appreciate your support. We would like to let you know that when a soldier receives a package or gift their spirits are lifted in a way that words cannot describe.

Thank you from KFOR 17, Kosovo

*Julia Eard*

*Max*

*SGT  
Bolte*



*cwz  
Dante Noy*

*Mary Ann*

*cwz  
Joh*

*Rh & the*

*cwz Vincent E. Almsberg  
Munkel*

*LPT Brady Phillips*

*P & B*

*SGT Thomas*

*JM*

*SGT Caleb Taylor*



*Praise  
the  
Lord!*

Dottie Jones's good friend Kathy McGraw had her liver biopsy and the results were good. She wants to thank the prayer chain for their prayers.

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

1. Cathie Vibber: Pray for continued recovery.
2. Mary Grant: Pray for healing of bronchitis.
3. Cathie Skoff's Aunt Cora: Pray for recovery from second hip surgery
4. Mary Grimes: Pray for progress while she continues therapy.
5. Virginia Suppers: Pray for healing of arm and wrist.

For further prayer requests, contact the following:

Alice Ralph            347-6647  
Linda Spence           653-8835  
Marie Oille              750-6452



**Remember our friends who are homebound or in a care facility by sending them a card to brighten their day:**

Al Bunce  
1626 Bay Meadows Lane  
Lady Lake, FL 32159

Gene Pratt  
3131 TCU Blvd.  
Orlando, FL 32817

Eleanor Redding  
16161 SE 117 Ave.  
P.O. Box 96  
Weirsdale, FL 32195

Marilyn Smith  
15020 SE 140th Ave. Rd.  
Weirsdale, FL 32195



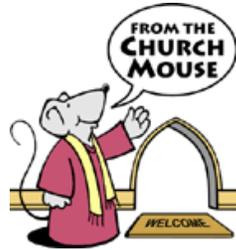
*A Loss in  
Our Church Family*

Paulie Brew went home to be with the Lord on February 3rd of this year. Please keep Norm and their family in your prayers.

**WEIRSDALE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

16303 SE 137th Court  
P. O. Box 269  
Weirsdale, FL 32195

Phone: 352-821-2757  
Fax: 352-821-3554  
E-mail: weirsdalepres@yahoo.com



**Our Mission:  
Bring People to Christ  
Develop our Discipleship**

***Dates to Remember***

- Mar. 1, DEACONS Meet, 9:00 AM
- Mar. 2, Small Groups Study, THE SHACK, 9:00 AM
- Mar. 2, Sunday Worship Service & Holy Communion, 10:30 AM
- Mar. 4, Small Group Study, THE SHACK, 10:00 AM
- Mar. 4, Tuesday Time Out, Noon
- Mar. 5, Ash Wednesday Supper, Douglas Hall, 6:00 PM
- Mar. 5, ASH WEDNESDAY Worship Service, 7:00 PM
- Mar. 5, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
- Mar. 6, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
  
- Mar. 9, DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME—CLOCKS FORWARD
- Mar. 9, Small Groups Study, THE SHACK, 9:00 AM
- Mar. 9, Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 AM
- Mar. 11, Small Group Study, THE SHACK, 10:00 AM
- Mar. 11, Tuesday Time Out, St. Patrick's Day, Noon
- Mar. 12, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
- Mar. 13, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
  
- Mar. 16, Small Groups Study, THE SHACK, 9:00 AM
- Mar. 16, Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 AM
- Mar. 16, SESSION Meets, 11:45 AM
- Mar. 18, Small Groups Study, THE SHACK, 10:00 AM
- Mar. 18, Tuesday Time Out, Noon
- Mar. 19, Sr. Singles, Local Restaurant, 5:00 PM
- Mar. 19, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
- Mar. 20, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
- Mar. 22, Art Class, Diana Harris, Oil Paint on Canvas, 9:00 AM
  
- Mar. 23, Small Groups Study, THE SHACK, 9:00 AM
- Mar. 23, Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 AM
- Mar. 23, POTLUCK SUNDAY, 11:30AM
- Mar. 25, Small Groups Study, THE SHACK, 10:00 AM
- Mar. 25, Tuesday Time Out, Noon
- Mar. 26, Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM
- Mar. 27, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 AM
  
- Mar. 30, Small Groups Study, THE SHACK, 9:00 AM
- Mar. 30, Sunday Worship, 10:30 AM
  
- Apr. 1, Small Groups Study, THE SHACK, 10:00 AM
- Apr. 5, DEACONS Meet, 9:30
- Apr. 6, Sunday Worship Service & Holy Communion 10:30 AM
- Apr. 13, PALM SUNDAY
- Apr. 17, MAUNDY THURSDAY
- Apr. 18, GOOD FRIDAY
- Apr. 20, EASTER SUNDAY

**IT'S COMING!**

**WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT!!**

Our new website is almost ready to be published online! We have worked long and hard on it and are very excited about the results. We hope you will be also.



**CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS**

We are at: [weirsdalepres@yahoo.com](mailto:weirsdalepres@yahoo.com)



Did you know that United Way has a free resource & referral helpline?

Available 24 hours a day/7 days a week, confidential, and multilingual. Callers link to local resources ranging from: FOOD, RENT, UTILITY ASSISTANCE, ELDER HELP, and much more.

Keep our troops in your prayers and pray for a safe return of all who are on foreign soils.

