The background of the entire image is a photograph of three crosses on a hill. The crosses are black silhouettes against a sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright orange near the horizon where the sun is setting. The sun is a bright yellow circle just above the horizon line, which is a dark blue-grey. The foreground is a dark silhouette of the hill and the crosses. The text is overlaid on this image.

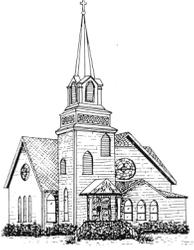
IN HIS GREAT MERCY

he has given us
new birth into a
living hope
through the resurrection
of **Jesus Christ**...

1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

February, 2016

Volume 38 No. 2



The Church Mouse



Chatting with Charlie – February, 2016

We are almost halfway through our Lenten journey. We began with ashes on our foreheads, which reminded us of our own mortality and the fact that our only hope is in God. Now we press on towards Palm Sunday when we celebrate Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Then as Holy Week progresses we will remember Christ's Last Supper with His Disciples on Maundy Thursday prior to His death on the Cross on Good Friday. And then we will celebrate the most glorious day of the year, Easter Sunday. The shadow of those ashes looms large as we follow Jesus from parade, to supper, to crucifixion, to hopeless tomb.

Holy Week brings together all the joy and friendship of Jesus and his disciples with their pain and anguish. It brings together all the joy of Palms with all the pain of the Passion and all the highs and lows of the lives we lead. We move from the triumphal entry of Jesus on Palm Sunday, a parade with shouts of joy and cheers of "Hosanna" (Lord have mercy, Lord save us) to Maundy Thursday and the Last Supper.

When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples in the Upper Room he was demonstrating unconditional love. Later He said these words; "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men (and women) will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Anyone can wash feet. Loving another person unconditionally is something much deeper.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead on the first Easter Morning changed all life on earth forever. The incarnate son of God died on a cross, was buried and rose from the dead so that we might have the promise of eternal life and the forgiveness of our sins. God through the work of Jesus Christ in a small voice calls us to change.

Easter is about participating in what we see in Jesus Christ, our living Lord and Savior. My prayer is that we will love as Christ has loved us and be truly changed. May we focus on being His new creations as we seek to obediently glorify God and walk by faith as guided by the Holy Spirit during this season and forevermore. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,
Charlie

Highlights of 2016 Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting

By: Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick, Presbytery Stated Clerk

February 6, 2015

"I loved learning about the Jamaica Mutual Mission. I feel much better informed about where our 2-Centsa-Meal offering goes!" This is what one of our newer teaching elder members said just after attending our Winter Stated Meeting on February 6, 2016, at First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville. A mission focus at the meeting was the Jamaica Ecumenical Mutual Mission (JEMM), which includes dental, medical and housing ministries as well as youth and adult exchanges. The morning offering for JEMM was \$1,663.

The host church welcomed about 115 teaching and ruling elder commissioners and 35 visitors, with volunteers offering warm hospitality in everything from parking and registration to a delicious meal and snacks. The morning message - "Soul Care" (Mark 8:34-38) - was brought by the Rev. Dr. Bob Shettler of the host church. He spoke of "soul care" in two aspects - first, the saving of our soul (our redemption), and second, "the restoration of the soul through spiritual growth that is transformative in daily living." Bob suggested that all people engaged in ministry remember these ways that God has provided to care for our souls: silence, Sabbath, scripture, and time with the Shepherd. "The best things we can offer to ourselves, our families, our church is our own cared-for and transformed soul. To God be the glory!"

Following the message, we remembered by name and gave thanks to God for the teaching and ruling elders of our presbytery who died during 2015. We shared the Lord's Supper and followed the worship service with a time of greeting and fellowship.

Highlights of the presentations and actions during the meeting led by our Moderator Cynthia Montgomery included:

- We welcomed four new teaching elders into our presbytery: Ruth Elswood (Chaplain - Palm Garden Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center); Bruce Hedgepeth (South Jacksonville); Sid McCollum (Honorably Retired); and Cliff Hayes (Honorably Retired). We also heard from Joe Albright (recently installed at our Geneva church) and a representative of Geneva's pastor nominating committee.
- We approved the retirement of Dudley Weaver (Memorial) as of February 29, 2016.
- We elected officers and committee members, including our new moderator-in-nomination, Mary Mickel (Woodlawn), and our new corporate president, Murray Beard (Palms).
- We approved the 2016 operating budget ([click here to view](#)).
- We voted to designate the net proceeds of the sale of the church property on Normandy Boulevard to support the presbytery's Hispanic ministry in Northeast Florida.
- We approved an amendment to the Manual of Operations that defines the structure of the presbytery's Representation Committee. The first election of committee members should take place at the Spring Stated Meeting.
- We approved an overture from teaching elder Jim Black (St. Andrews) that speaks out against divisive rhetoric and behavior and calls us to love and honor our neighbor in our words and our deeds.

- The Administrative Commission (AC) for the Korean Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville gave its final report concerning the congregation's restoration to health and highlighted the blessing of the relationships developed in the last three years of work together. The AC was dismissed with gratitude. In addition, we approved several recommendations by the AC for ways that we can support and nurture the congregation in the future.

- The Steering Planning Committee of our Discernment and Design Team provided an update of its efforts. The planned reporting date for the initial results of its work is the 2016 Spring Stated Meeting.

- On behalf of the St. Augustine Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission, Lynette Kennison (Hodges Boulevard) made a presentation about disaster preparedness training that she can provide for our congregations. She can be contacted at 904-982-7060 (cell) or by email: lkennis@ju.edu.

- Reports were made on behalf of Presbyterian Women (Carol Graff, PW Moderator - Hodges Boulevard); the Mutual Mission Committee (Richard Kirk - First Ocala and others); Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center (Jim Montgomery, Operating Board Moderator - South Jacksonville - and Terry Patterson, Executive Director); and the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (Clare Lewis).

The First Gainesville church served a delicious lunch of smoked pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, and apple pie. As the meeting closed, we installed, charged and prayed for our new Presbytery Moderator, ruling elder Ralph Moulder (Starke First), who will serve as moderator through our 2017 Winter Stated Meeting. Our moderator-elect is now teaching elder Jeff Welch (Dunnellon).

The 2016 Spring Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine will be held at Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center near Starke, Florida, on May 3, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. Click here for the list of churches that are invited to send one additional commissioner beginning with the 2016 Spring Stated Meeting.

Invitation to Host: We are looking for a church or group of churches to host the 2017 Winter Stated Meeting on Saturday, February 4. The meeting space needs to accommodate 140-190 attendees for parking, welcoming refreshments, worship, business meeting, and lunch. The church's ability to provide child care on site will be a factor when considering the proposal. Space is also needed for several table displays. If you have questions or would like to volunteer your church (or a partnership of churches in your area), please contact Stated Clerk Sandra Hedrick (cell: 904-612-9766) or Transitional Executive Presbyter Steve Benz (904-733-8277 x125) by March 16, 2016.

**Rev. Alexandra (Sandra) Hedrick, Presbytery Stated Clerk
sandra@staugpres.org - 904-612-9766 (cell)**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—February, 2016

- We welcomed four new members during Worship.
- Josh Patterson's Eagle Scout project was approved. It consists of total cleanup of the WPC cemetery, removal of a downed tree and a new sign.
- The spring clean up date has been set for March 19th.
- Charlie is planning a study on growing and responding in faith and overview of church members.
- Several "special" Fellowship dates were announced.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Cordle

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY & SPAGHETTI DINNER A BIG SUCCESS!!

Scout leader Bud Boyer announced that this was the 74th year the scouts have been sponsored by WPC and through time, the troop has produced 66 Eagle Scouts!

February 7th was Scout Sunday in church with the spaghetti dinner for Fellowship afterwards. Though the weather was cold and windy and the spaghetti dinner line was long, people moved through it quickly and everyone enjoyed this annual dinner.

Approximately 2,200 tickets were sold for this event.



CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

Mark March 19th on your calendars--we will have a church clean up day that morning from 9:00 to noon with a nice lunch furnished for those who participate. Bring your gloves, garden tools and home cleaning products to help out.



Maundy Thursday, March 24th

6:00 Soup Dinner

7:00 PM Worship Service with Holy Communion

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 27th 10:30 AM

With Holy Communion

*"I am the
resurrection
and the life."*
JOHN 11:25





The sewing group that makes the ditty bags and Christmas stockings for our troops stationed over seas meets in Douglas Hall on the second and fourth Monday each month.

Their next meetings will be March 14th & 28th this month.

Cutters, sewers and crocheters can all help; your efforts are appreciated.

Diana Harris coordinates sewing sessions at church and delivers the items to Operation Shoebox. She can be reached at 352-425-4351 or at 352-625-6021.



SHOE DRIVE FOR STANTON-WEIRSDALE SCHOOL

Starting March 20th, we will be collecting new shoes for the Stanton-Weirsdale school children. We are looking for all sizes of closed toe shoes, especially sizes 6-7.5. Your donations can be put in the basket in the Narthex and should be turned in by May 1st.

MARCH WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Head Usher	Elaine Rumpel
Liturgist:	David Scobie
Communion Set Up 3/6:	Cathy Skoff
Communion Servers 3/6:	Sue Cordle, Marlys Forbrook, Jim Bowers, Angela Pecor, Diana McDonald
Communion Set Up 3/24:	Sue Farley
Communion Servers 3/24:	Linda Spence, Diana Harris, Axie Grimes, Brian Farley
Communion Set Up 3/27:	Diana McDonald
Communion Servers:3/27	Jim Bowers, Angela Pecor, Starr Patterson, David and Sara Jane Vincent

As always, if you are unable to serve as listed above, **PLEASE find a substitute.** And, thank you for your willingness to serve our church!



LOVE INC FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by the Deacons

Sunday, March 6th

In Douglas Hall following worship

Creamed Chicken & Biscuits

Side Vegetable & Dessert

All for a *suggested* donation of
\$5.00/person

Love INC supports our community.

They are able to do that only if
we support them!



From the 2016 Nominating Committee

Please complete the following information to submit names of those active members who you feel are qualified to serve on the Session and the Board of Deacons. If you wish, you are encouraged to submit your own name. In addition, please feel free to make any comments that you believe the Nominating Committee should consider.

Please mail, drop off at the Church office, or put the completed form in the collection plate.

Session Elder: Elders are concerned with the governing body of the church and its spiritual life.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Deacon: Deacons serve the human needs of the congregation and community.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Thank you for your concern and response,
Sue Cordle on behalf of the 2016 Nominating Committee

Please pray for all those who attend and are members of our church family. We all have our little problems and our health needs. Praying for each other as a gift of love will give us a great blessing!

May the Grace and Mercy of our Lord fill our hearts with LOVE!

For prayer requests, contact the following:

Ann Myers 352-653-3319

Marlys Forbrook 352-430-1727



PRAYER CHAIN INFORMATION

If you have a prayer request, please call **Ann Myers** at 352-653-3319 or **Marlys Forbrook** at 352-430-1727.

Also, if you would be interested in helping on the prayer chain, call either Ann or Marlys and let them know.



We are sorry to announce that two of our friends have gone home to be with the Lord.

February 10th was Marilyn Smith. A grave side memorial was held for her. On February 22, Renee Owens left us. A memorial service was held at our church on February 26th.

Please pray for comfort and healing for these families.



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

Norman Brew
8220 Natures Way #120
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Gene Pratt
3131 TCU Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32817

Eleanor Redding
P.O. Box 96
Weirsdale, FL 32195

GIFTING THROUGH THE YEAR

1. The forms for **Altar Flowers** are in the Narthex. If you are so moved to sponsor the flowers for a Sunday service, please fill out a form and return it to the office or put in the collection plate on Sundays. The flowers are only \$25.00 and add to the beauty of the sanctuary and service.
2. The **Love INC** gas cans are always conveniently located in the Narthex and Douglas Hall so you can drop your change in them as you are coming or going. The little amounts that you leave make such a big difference to those in need of your help.
3. The first Sunday of each month is **Food Pantry Sunday**. Please put your items in Douglas Hall in the designated area. They are always in need of peanut butter, jelly, cereal, applesauce and personal toiletries.

March 2016

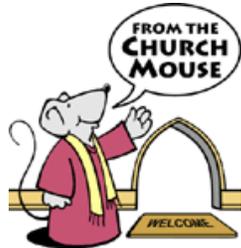


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	1	2	3	4	5
		TTO 11:30AM	Romans Life Study, Stonecrest 1:30PM Choir 4:30PM BSA 7:30PM	Wom. Bible Study 10AM Romans Life Study, Men's 5:30PM	Romans Life Study, Del Webb, 10:00AM	DEACONS Meet, 9AM
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Romans Life Study Wom/Men Grps, 8:55AM Food Pantry Sunday Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion, 10:30AM Deacon's Love INC Fundraiser for Fellowship, 11:30AM		TTO 11:30AM	Romans Life Study, Stonecrest 1:30PM Choir 4:30PM BSA 7:30PM	Wom. Bible Study, 10AM Romans Life Study, Men's 5:30PM	Romans Life Study, Del Webb, 10:00AM	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
CLOCKS AHEAD-2AM Romans Life Study Wom/Men Grps, 8:55AM Sunday Worship, 10:30AM Lily Order Forms Due	Op. Shoebox Grp, 9AM	TTO 11:30AM	Romans Life Study, Stonecrest 1:30PM Choir 4:30PM Sr. Singles, 5PM TBA BSA 7:30PM	Wom. Bible Study, 10AM Romans Life Study, Men's 5:30PM	Romans Life Study, Del Webb, 10:00AM	CHURCH Clean-up Day w/ Lunch, 9AM-Noon
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
PALM SUNDAY Romans Life Study Wom/Men Grps, 8:55AM Sunday Worship, 10:30AM Session Meets, 11:45AM Children's Shoe Drive Begins and goes to May 1st		TTO 11:30AM	Romans Life Study, Stonecrest 1:30PM Choir 4:30PM BSA 7:30PM	Wom. Bible Study, 10AM MAUNDY THURSDAY Soup Dinner, 6:00PM Worship Service, 7:00PM w/ Holy Communion	Romans Life Study, Del Webb, 10:00AM	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
EASTER Worship w/ Holy Communion, 10:30AM	Op. Shoebox Grp, 9AM	TTO 11:30AM	Choir 4:30PM BSA 7:30PM	Wom. Bible Study, 10AM		

**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@gmail.com
Website: www.weirsdalepresbyterianchurch.org



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



Weirsdale Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Fellowship: 11:30 AM

Study Groups:

Sundays 8:55 AM Men's & Women's: Church

Wednesdays 1:30 PM: Stonecrest

Thursday's Men's 5:30 PM: Douglas Hall

Fridays 10:00 AM: Del Webb