



The Happenings

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

TO SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD BY SERVING WITHIN OUR CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND BEYOND;
AND TO DEVELOP AND EMPOWER PASSIONATE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST.

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 8

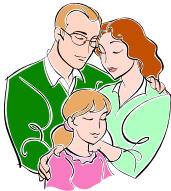
APRIL #2 2010

Parenting with Positive Discipline

A Workshop Series

April 23 & 30, and May 7 & 14

7 – 9pm



The workshop is free and will be conducted by Kathy Kranendonk, director of the preschool. Childcare will be \$5 per child per night, max \$15 per family per night. *Registration is required (by April 16)*. Childcare will be available for infants through 5th grade.

This workshop addresses our goal as parents: for our children to develop self discipline, responsibility, and positive capabilities and attitudes. It is based on the philosophy of Alfred Adler and Rudolf Dreikurs, and examines discipline techniques that are both effective and inspire an atmosphere of mutual respect in the home.

Have you ever heard yourself saying “I’ve told you a hundred times to...!”? Is the hundredth time the one they will hear? Can bedtime be more agreeable? Can chores be done more cheerfully? Can siblings learn to share? Come and expand your toolbox of discipline techniques to help with some of these questions. If you cannot come to all four nights, attend the ones you can. For more information or to register call, Kathy at 689 – 0947, or email us at

preschool@fpcbrandon.org.

Stephen Ministry Emphasis Sunday

April 25

On Sunday, April 25, a special emphasis will be given to our Stephen Ministry at First Presbyterian. Twenty + years ago Roy and Virginia Crenshaw, under the leadership of Pastor Paul Reiter, introduced this ministry to our church. Since that time, over 60 people have received the 50 hours required training and participated in many additional continuing education seminars.

Active and inactive Stephen Ministers will be recognized at both the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services. A reception will be held in Maudlin Hall from 9:45-10:45 for those who are and were part of the ministry, as well as those who are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers' one-on-one Christian caring is a physical fruit of the spirit at First Presbyterian church.

Our current Stephen Ministers are Sheila Keel, Jim McNeil, Kathy Opela, Rae Vinson and Jim Yockey. Our leaders are Priscilla Babas, Tim Black, Rebekah Maul, Dawn Trattner, and Jackie Williams.



Looking Ahead

- Positive Discipline Workshop: Fri, April 23 & 30 and May 7 & 14 from 7:00-9:00pm
- Tell Me More Classes: April 18 & 25, 12:30pm
- Stephen Ministry Emphasis Sunday: April 25
- Preschool Spring Pageant: April 27, 6:30pm
- Pancake Breakfast by Youth: May 2, 7:30-10:30am
- Ladies’ Spring Luncheon: May 8, 10am
- Retirees’ Outing at Delaney Creek: May 21 at 11:30am

Elders

Margaret Barlow
 Mary Lou Cannone
 David Childs
 David Dale
 Nancy Donovan
 Gil Evans
 Michele Gates
 Stormy Ongold
 Christine Karow
 Elena LaRussa
 Lloyd Lasher
 Lori Lynen - Clerk
 Mike McClelland
 Lee McAnnis
 Peggy Nugent
 Bill Ogden
 Katy Reinke
 David Rogers
 Jim Yockey
 Lynn Young

Rebekah's Remarks

Dear Fine People,

We have been experiencing a great deal of celebration lately. I'm still sort of recuperating after the whirlwind worship experiences we have had. The combined dedication worship service on **March 21st** can still be felt. I think one of the most powerful things about that service (*which focused on God's power through the Holy Spirit*) was the prayer time when Tim requested prayer concerns. Almost in unison, from every corner of the sanctuary, requests were voiced, and continued as the seconds ticked by, and once voiced, there was silence. Everything had been said. It reminded me of the passage from I Corinthians where Paul speaks of the Body of Christ in very literal terms. "*When one part suffers, every part suffers with it...*" (**I Cor. 12:26**).

I think that is what we were doing, and I have no doubt that our community of faith is strengthened in this manner of prayer. The only word I can think of that spiritually describes March 21st is, "**Awesome**". If anyone has ever doubted the value of music in worship, they don't anymore. Comments regarding the music of that service, carefully blended between the two styles of worship we enjoy, included:

"That was uplifting and inspiring to hear the congregational voices united,"

"There was such joy in the combining of the various choirs and instruments,"

"The conviction of the children's choir affirming that we are the church together brought tears to my eyes..."

"I didn't even know you had a robe to wear for worship," said one who attends the early service.

"We should worship together like that more often!"

[the Worship Ministry Team is already considering a once a year combined service... perhaps annually on Pentecost Sunday]

Member Care outdid themselves with the meal following the service as we gathered in Mauldin Hall to wait for some sort of initial tally for the Campaign. To date, we have received in gifts and pledges, approximately \$950,000.00. Between now and May, the follow-up team will be contacting others who have yet to pledge, and then the Visioning Team will decide the best approach to building. When the process was begun, phasing of the long-term project was assumed. It would have been great to have received the full amount of \$2.5 million, but because of the generosity of our church family, we will be able to move forward through phasing. Pray for **John Nugent**, who will be leading the follow-up team; and for **Everett Nolte**, who will be heading up

the financing team. When we direct our praise to God in gratitude, we are blessed, and our joy is made more complete.

Holy Week was amazing! A friend told me that after the March 21st service, he thought that Easter might be anti-climatic, but it wasn't. The **Chancel Choir** sang a wonderful message that prepared all our hearts for Holy Week. We are so blessed by the many talents of **Mark Prater**, who inspires voices to sing *praise... to sing the gospel... in ways that open hearts to God and His love for us through Jesus*. I have never been part of a church with a choir that is so united in its support, respect and love for their Director. Mark's faith sings. We are all blessed as a result. The shared testimonies on Maundy Thursday were all very meaningful, and provided a deeper application of the Lord's Supper. Thanks to **Sean Donovan, Terrie Morrison, Derek Maul and Ben Pabst** for their willingness to share. Good Friday was meaningful as Tim illustrated "the big deal" about Holy Week, and we were blessed. The **Youth** sponsored "**Eggstravaganza**" was, as always, a true delight and joy for both children and adults. It always makes me smile to see the utter glee with which the youth of our church have in hiding the eggs and in helping the younger children find them. One of our 6th grade youth told me that she had been looking forward to hiding the eggs for the children "*all my life*".

Easter Sunday is always an awesome day! The joy is there in all the faces. We gather and give thanks to God who gives us everything good... *all that we need, His hands have provided*. Mark Prater said in a recent e-mail to the choir that Easter is "*the Greatest Sunday of the Year*." Once I was actually awake, the Sunrise worship service was beautiful. **Peggie Roy** preached a true "*good news*" message which we continued to reflect upon at the **Easter Breakfast** (*that Member Care Team, along with Discipleship and Worship Teams, know how to teach us to break bread together*). It is always a joy to see the congregation proudly gathered, along with many family and friends who came to be part of the day with us.

If it weren't for Jesus and His love, we wouldn't have any reason to come together in the many ways we have been able to in recent weeks. My blessings are too many to count, and I look forward, as always, to the unfolding of our life together. If you have for some reason become disconnected to the life of our church family, make a deliberate effort to come home. But, whether or not that is possible, know that you remain an important part of the Body of Christ known as First Presbyterian Church of Brandon.

Much love, *Rebekah*

TOM'S TANGENTS

Dear Friends,

Like Rebekah, I want to say thank you to so many people who made these past few weeks here so special. In addition to the combined worship on March 21st, we had a wonderful Palm Sunday with the choir through their hard work. Mark Prater has gone above and beyond; our youth have helped so many children find Easter eggs again this year; Member Care, Worship, and the Sunrisers helped us celebrate and eat together. There were so many involved, I just want to send out a huge “thank you” to everyone for their contributions to our ministry together.

There’s been much to celebrate, and much to reflect upon. I was especially grateful for the Good Friday worship experience. We included several folks from the church in the Tenebrae service, and it was also different for me because I memorized the longest passage of scripture I had ever told. Mark 15, the story of the passion, really is a moving account of the last few hours of Jesus’ life. And Mark’s gospel, supposedly the first one of the four that was written down, keeps the story simple. There’s not a lot of detail or description. It’s just the facts, ma’am. In this account, Mark doesn’t have to explain too much. The story pretty much tells itself.

It makes an impression on me, however, that the women in the story get a decent amount of description. They also play a very significant role in the events that transpire after the resurrection. And since they were the ones there to witness His death, and then they are the ones who return first thing in the morning, the most important time period of the passion of Jesus depends upon their witness. In a time where women

did not warrant much attention or significant recognition, these women hold the power of the account of the resurrection in their hands. Mark, along with the other gospel writers, gives credence to this reality as they put down their stories.

In the days that follow Easter, I’m just worn out. We spend a lot of time and energy on the details—so much so that I sometimes wonder if we fail to appreciate the big picture. But sitting on the dewy chair at the sunrise service, I had a great sense of peace about the truth of the morning that came with the sunlight. One can’t help but wonder what that morning was like for those who lived it. And what might the days that followed have been like? Was there wonder and awe? Or was it more confusion than anything else? The accounts that follow indicate that the followers of Jesus didn’t recognize Him when He appeared among them. Was this because they were in denial about His resurrection, or was it because He looked quite different than He did the last time they saw Him? I suspect it was a bit of both.

In the days that follow in our own Eastertide, I hope we can reflect on the significance of the story—and that we need to let this story live in us and be something we can share with others in a way that passes the story along. This is part of our faith sharing, our witness to the resurrection—just like those women—just like when we lose a loved one at the end of this life. I’m full of hope today, as we witness all that God can do, and beyond.

Peace, Love, Hope and Joy, Tim

What’s The Buzz?

I hope you had a wonderful Easter and are enjoying our beautiful spring weather! The plants and gardens are rejuvenated with new growth and the bees are buzzing from blossom to blossom. All of this “bizziness” reminds me of the LIFE at First Presbyterian! During the Capital Campaign Home Gatherings we were asked what our church means to us and many people said “Family”. The word that popped into my head was “Energy”. This place is always buzzing with energetic people tackling an issue or creating new wonderful ways to worship our Lord.

If you recently joined our church family, or are in a new phase of your life that allows new or different ways to participate, I want to invite you to take our [Spiritual Gifts On-line Survey](#) anytime between [April 11th and May 2nd](#). This survey allows you to see the myriad of ways you can participate in the worship and ministries of our active church. Our Elders and Staff can use the results to keep our congregation involved and keep this place buzzing!

Please log onto to our website at www.fpcbrandon.org and click on the Spiritual Gifts Survey. The website has a new look, thanks to Tisa McRoberts, our receptionist! You are invited to use the church office computer if you would like. Please call ahead for availability. Also, feel free to call me if you have any questions. We invite you to join the celebration and fellowship, working alongside your church family!



Parish Nurse Notes

Our Palm Sunday Service was brilliant, inspiring, and beautiful. The theme that really grabbed my attention was the treatment of Jesus by the “court” system, how Herod and Pontius Pilate allowed Jesus to be given to the masses and then crucified. The two thieves beside Him each received one last chance to repent before they died and one of them voiced support of Jesus. In Luke 23:42, the criminal said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” Verse 43: And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

The reason the treatment of Jesus during the “trial” and execution made a different impression on me is because I have been studying Criminology 101 at the University of Tampa this semester. Recently our class made a trip to the Orient Road Jail. We were taken on a tour of the facility. I was absolutely amazed at the facility, the workers, the cleanliness, and the order there. Nothing appeared as horrible as what was described in the Bible during Jesus’ ordeal. And certainly what does all this have to do with health?

The officer giving us the tour that night pointed out the clinic, showed us the “pod” area where some of the more unstable inmates were kept and advised us that it is their responsibility to take care of the inmate’s health concerns while the inmate is there. Although the inmates are in jail due to some type of criminal charges, they are still provided access to health care. There are also other support groups that meet in the jail, to assist in offering alternatives to behavior which has been unacceptable.

Criminal activities certainly impact the lives and health of the victims and the criminals, or those accused of criminal behavior. If you have ever been a victim of a crime, know someone who has been a victim, or been associated with someone who has been accused of a crime, you have witnessed first hand the emotional turmoil that accompanies it. A friend of mine used to work as a nurse in a jail and commented once on the request of an inmate who had been taken into custody for a heinous crime, that he needed something for his upset stomach! She had to give him some medicine for his stomach.

Tying all this together on trials, jails, criminal activities and health comes down to a few thoughts. Jesus died for our sins. There was no true justice during His trial and execution. We have choices every day to do the right thing, make the right decision on activities that could be legal or illegal, and deal with the consequences of our actions. Hopefully, you will make better choices about your health to avoid the “jail” inside you for making poor choices.

— Linda LaComb-Williams

cedarkirk news...

... **Open House** is May 1st from 1:00-5:00pm. Mark your calendars now and plan on joining us for a free day of fun at CEDARKIRK CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER. This afternoon event offers fun for all ages and a taste of what a day of summer camp is like. You are free to enjoy a great day of swimming in the pool, archery, climbing on the rock wall, hiking, hayrides, camp tours, s’mores by a campfire, or just relaxing in a rocking chair on the porch of the lodge. We hope to see you on this special Saturday. For more information or directions to Cedarkirk, please contact the camp office at camps@cedarkirk.org, call 685-4224 or visit our website.

... **Are you registered for camp yet?** Have you taken time to look at the summer camp programs being offered? June and July may seem a long way off, but Cedarkirk camps fill quickly! There are games, skits, songs, and time to just be yourself with good friends, new and old. There are exciting activities outdoors: canoeing, kayaking, high ropes, cookouts, and campfires in the woods. All of the fun and excitement is offered with the context of growing deeper in God’s love. Scholarships are available to those who would otherwise be unable to attend. The church office has brochures and registration forms or you may contact the Cedarkirk office

... **Volunteer nurses** are needed! In exchange for a week of your time and medical expertise, you are invited to join our community of fellowship, fun, and great home-cooked meals in a beautiful setting along the Alafia River. In addition, you will receive a one week camp scholarship for the camper of your choice or to be added to our scholarship program for campers in need. For more information, call Mark at 685-4224, x2.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Friends of the Congregation

Tom & Chris LeFevre (Tom LeFevre's parents)	Marie Platts (Stowers' friend)
Michael Beddow (Gregos' grandson)	Bob & Deb Hanson (Christine Orlosky's friend)
Dick & Jane Wood (Jane Owens' friends)	Michael Chenoweth (Don Zegel's brother-in-law)
Jeff & Donna Dixon (Mary Ellen Dixon)	Judy Brown (Ogden's friend)
Jeff Crompton (Winnie Wilk's son)	Gene Waters (Fran Gregos' father)
Gladys Spakes (Janice Poindexter's sister)	Smith Family (McClellan's friends)
Charlene Canady (Suzanne Odomisi's friend)	Jill Jordan Ernst (Gil & Marianne Evans' niece)
Anitra Ruth (Suzanne Odomisi's friend)	Virginia Whitlatch (Friend of the congregation)
Spring Smiley (Merle Wooten's daughter)	Robin (Heather McClellan's sister)
Rosa Boeres (Merle Wooten's sister-in-law)	Bob Hutton (Laura Hogg's father)
Billy Vinson (Darrell Vinson's father)	Dennis Streng (Bj Herig's nephew)
Bonnie Moore (Randy Poindexter's sister)	Aime Dryer (Alicia Braddock's relative)
Wesley Henry (Crenshaw's grandson)	Betty Cromwick (Dan & Ruth Craft's friend)
Sharalyn Hogan (Laura Hogg's sister)	Karyn Miles (Mike & Linda Miles' daughter)
Marci Smith (Earl & Judy Smith's daughter-in-law)	Sherry Daugherty (Lisa Paterson's mother)
Amanda Hawkes (Garrison's granddaughter)	Mary Anne Hill (Amanda Trauger's cousin)
Brenda Chapman (Friend of the Congregation)	John & Peggy Nugent's grandsons in Iraq
Shane Long (Shelley Grable's cousin)	Tyler Kemp (Coldwell's grandson)
Dianne, Doug & Sara Seelbach (Sofarelli's relatives)	Keven Hamlet (Jackie William's friend)
Lucy Sahr (Sondra Cone's sister)	Peter & Colleen Giamanco (DeVecchio's family)
Jason Conley (Sherry Skovgaard's nephew)	Sarah Hart (Amanda Trauger's grandmother)
Tim Slinkosky (Jean Emery's friend)	Margie Scott (Marcia Wiles' friend)
Edna Davies (Henrietta Zahrobsky's sister)	Marguerite Barnes (Marge Hubbard's friend)
Janice Bishop (David Bishop's stepmother)	Cali Moody (Priscilla Babas' friend)
Gregory Johnston (Darwin & Pat Johnston's son)	Corey Robinson (Jackie Williams' grandson)
Kathy Welch (Sherry Skovgaard's cousin)	Taylor Stokes (Trojak's friend)
Carol Jaegar (Suzanne Odomisi's daughter)	June McClelland (Marcia Wiles' friend)
Jesse Scott (Jane Scott's grandson)	Sharon Walker (Jean Hayhurst's friend)
Paulette Gentry (Trojak's friend)	Cathy LaRussa (Elena LaRussa's sister)
Michelle Marion (Elena LaRussa's niece)	Dan Steigerwald (Don Steigerwald's brother)
Ritchie Cafaro (Rose Stolarcek's friend)	Charles Gravette (Louise Farney's friend)
Robbie Robinson (Suzan Odomisi's neighbor)	Anne Sofarelli (Chris Sofarelli's cousin)

Please remove this page and incorporate it with your daily prayers. If you have a special request for family and friends to be added to this prayer list, contact the church office. We also look forward to hearing from you regarding your joys from answered prayer. The Covenant of Prayer list for church members can be found in the weekly bulletin.

**Ladies' Spring Brunch****"Sowing Seeds of Kindness"****Saturday, May 8 @ 10:00 AM**

Please join Member Care for brunch and help "sow some seeds of kindness". This year, all of our profit will be donated to the Good Samaritan Fund at FPC. Our speaker will be Joyce Allen and she will share stories about the people the Good Samaritan Fund helps and how it can change lives. We also ask, if able, please bring donations of the following items to assist in making hygiene bags and food bags for the homeless and less fortunate: Travel size please - shampoo, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, tissues, q-tips, small bar soap, toothbrushes, razors, small and large Ziploc bags, small pop top cans of fruit, Vienna sausage, tuna and bottled water. We also would accept donations of gently used sleeping bags, tents and small synthetic (they dry quicker!) blankets. Together, we can make a difference and contribute to this vital ministry that helps so many people on a daily basis. Cost is \$5.00. Make your reservation through the tear off in the weekly bulletin, calling the church office or on the website.

Prayers for those serving in the military away from home:

Michael Roberts in Afghanistan
 michael_roberts_af@msn.com

Congratulations

Evan James Lefevre was born April 1, 2010, at 5 lbs 14 oz and 18 1/2 inches to parents, Sandy & Tom and big brother, Cole. His joyful grandparents are Gil & Marianne Evans.



First Presbyterian Church of Brandon

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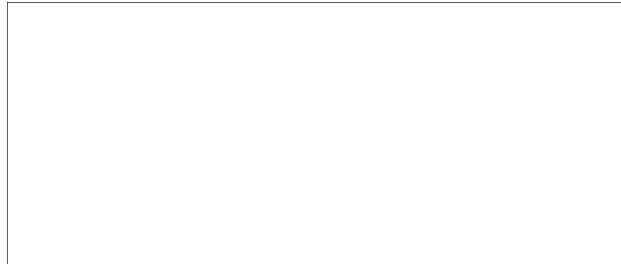
WORSHIP:

9:45am - Sunday School for all ages

8:30 & 11:00am - Worship Services

Church Office Hours:

Mon-Fri: 8:30am - 4:30pm



THANK YOU

❖... for your donation through the 3 Cents A Meal Offering. The need in the farmworker communities seems to be greater each week. We serve a simple warm meal each Friday. This time last year we served 315-350 meals. Now we are serving over 900 meals.

— Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

❖... to those who helped with the last edition of *The Happenings*: Allison Elrod, Bob & Sue Lee, Rose Solarceck and Jane Scott.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 26—30

9:00am—noon



Meals on Wheels--Fun Funds

Since June 2009 when our Fun Funds Program began with GFS (Gordon Food Services), First Pres has received reimbursements in excess of \$100, plus another \$150 from the weekly coupons that they send us. This money is used to help fund our Meals on Wheels Program. We can use your help. If you have not received your "Fun Funds" card as yet, you will find the forms in the narthex or ask in the office. Each application has a \$10 coupon for your use, and a percentage of everything purchased at this great grocery store using our number is returned to us. GFS is located around the corner from the church at 730 East Brandon Blvd. (across from Nativity). Check the store out and don't forget to take your coupon along. It's a WIN-WIN Program for all!

Pastor

Rebekah A. Maul

Associate Pastor

Timothy J. Black

Director of Music and Organist

Mark A. Prater

Director of Youth Ministries

Lynn Pabst

Director of the Preschool

Kathy Kranendonk

Financial Manager

Andy Fonfara

Facilities Manager

Steve Benitez

Administrative Assistant

Joyce Allen

Church Secretary

Kathy Kranendonk

Receptionist

Tisa McRoberts

Bookkeeper

Sue Scott

Facilities Manager

Steve Benitez

Custodian/Kitchen Coordinator

Debbie Billmaier

Nursery Coordinator

Brandi Hooper