



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 2

JANUARY #2 2010



Kickoff Event

Jan 23 12- 3 p.m.

Are you ready for the tailgate of the decade?

*Then come and join us for an afternoon of
fun. There will be:*

- Hot Dogs, Brats and all the fixings
- Church vs Youth Football Game
- Inspirational Pre-Game (ESPN style) with Coach Maul and Coach Black
- Carnival Games
- Obstacle Course
- Decorated Cars*
- Chili Cook-Off*

* Win a prize for:

Decorating your car in support of your favorite team (high school, college, or NFL)
Best pot of Chili

Building For The Future

"Now He is using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day --- a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home."

Ephesians 2:20-22



Dear Fine People,

There is a healthy amount of anxiety being expressed regarding the upcoming Building for the Future campaign. It's expressed in subtle and not so subtle ways. I hear the "What if?..." concerns: What if we can't raise enough money? What if our regular ministry budget suffers? What if the bank doesn't want to lend us any money? Most "what if" questions can't really be answered until we know what we're working with. For instance: The building we're considering will cost approximately 2.5 million total (*which includes a significant amount for prep work for the future building plans beyond Phase I*). It is unrealistic to think that the 270 or so families in the church could come up with \$9300.00 dollars over a three year period to pay that cost in full. Also, for a few families in the church, \$9300.00 isn't as costly a sacrifice, and these financially blessed families know that they have invested in such a way that they will be able to give more generously than most. However, we do hope to pay the total amount down over a three year commitment period as to be able to significantly lower the debt... or even pay it off.

It could be that we would have another *three year* pledging period beyond the first three. After all, Presbyterians don't like debt, and an active building fund will help facilitate the reduction of potential debt. In the economic realities of our culture, many non-profits are adopting *five year* commitment periods from the get-go. The Session and Visioning Team are encouraging the *three year approach*, and then we'll see what happens. We're adjustable because the church is a living, breathing, growing entity, where we live for Christ, we breathe for Christ, and we grow for Christ. God is working his purposes out amongst us, and it is very good to be involved with such a vibrant community of faith.

We are building for the future in such a way that those who follow in our footsteps will benefit from the amazing grace of God in Christ, like we have throughout the nearly 50 years of our existence. I encourage all of us to take the Scriptural foundation upon which this campaign is built be taken to heart and memory. Ephesians 2:19b-22 says:

"You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

Say it, pray it and believe it everyday throughout the campaign. It's a promise and a calling. So, commit to be in church on Sunday to worship the One who created us as a church family, and who calls us to serve faithfully.

I Love You, *Rebekah*

DON'T FORGET:

The kick-off for the Building Campaign is

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23RD.

More Information throughout the Newsletter

TIM'S TANGENTS

Dear Friends,

These latest tangents come to you from the frozen tundra of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, our chosen holiday destination this year. It seems that when we visit in the month of January, Pittsburgh experiences record lows and this year we added quite a bit of steady snow—not accumulating to much, but enough to remind us how cold it is outside. Liam held his breath a few times when moving to and from the car, and Micah took it all in stride. . .as is his way. Along with this has been the constant reminder of what it's like to be in this climate: not enough washer fluid in your car, searching for the rear defrost button on said car, shoveling snow, covering up each square inch of exposed skin, watching the weather forecast like it's a sporting event, and the fight over what is the perfect temperature for the thermostat (I suppose this applies to Florida as well).

With these reminders of winter, we can remember the seasons that exist in a special way in the northeastern part of the country—four distinct seasons that don't always start on time, but nevertheless have their unique characteristics. Summer can get just as hot as in Florida, but it doesn't last nearly as long; Fall is crisp, chilly at times, and the air starts to smell different; Winter comes on weakly, but gathers steam, and by the New Year most folks are already tired of it, ready for the welcome of Spring, which holds the thaw, buds of new flowers and leaves, and another distinct smell in the air.

As the seasons go, so goes the church year as well, and we move from our tide of Christmas, and the moments of Epiphany, into the unheralded Ordinary Time, a time that would otherwise draw us into the doldrums of Spring, but which affords us a chance to refocus from the chaos of the seasons that precede it. Eventually, we are drawn in to the season of Lent, which asks us to contemplate, once again, the sacrifice and gift of Christ's love for us. For those of us who find ourselves as part of the body at First Brandon, there is so much on the horizon this season. We begin a capital campaign to embark upon a new plan for the future of the ministry here.

It is a special season to examine how God is calling us to go even further than we imagined possible. And we are preparing to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2011. AND we are looking at all the exciting opportunities coming our way in the year ahead.

I continue to believe that we can do whatever God calls us to do, but enough of the body has to believe that these things are possible as well. Most important in all of this is our presence in worship, which is where we begin each week, and also where we end each week. This starting point is so essential to our faith and our needed reminder of who we are each day in between. During our stay in Pittsburgh, our whole family contracted some kind of stomach bug that hit hard and fast and left us a bit weaker after it passed. We actually missed going to church on the first Sunday in January because of it, and while we were sorry to miss, we were in no shape to be around other people! Regardless, it left me weaker spiritually as well, as though an essential part of my week was missing. I certainly missed worshiping with you all, but I also missed a chance to be in worship without leading, and while sitting with Kelly, and able to hear someone else bring the word into the world. In this coming year, I want to challenge you to get to church, even when you don't feel like going, even when there are other things on the schedule, because you'll find that your week will not be the same without it. You'll also forget who you are a bit more when you don't make it to be with the Body worshiping together. I hope to see you there!

Our family also wants to express our sincere gratitude for the church's gift this Christmas eve. We are so blessed to have you as a part of our family! Thank you for your amazing generosity!

*Peace, Love, Hope and Joy,
Tim, Kelly, Micah & Liam*

Want to Know MORE???

Most of us do, at least about areas that interest us. But what about the church? Have you been longing to know more about this place called First Presbyterian, or even just those who call themselves "Presbyterian"? The 'TELL ME MORE' class is not just for perspective new members, but for anyone who wants to learn more about the church, and this church and all that we are about. Our next class will be on January 24th and January 31st, at 12:30 pm in Mauldin Hall and lunch will be included. Join us for some food and fellowship as we learn about this place we call our church home. Invite a friend or neighbor to come along! Contact Tim Black for more information.

Building for the Future with Prayer

As our church *builds for the future* in prayer, we want to *build our prayer life* as faithful disciples of Christ. In the following issues of the Happenings, please look for the prayer box (see below) for tips on prayer and specific prayer requests. We want to become intense believers and doers of prayer. We welcome your questions or thoughts on prayer.

— Your Prayer Emphasis Team

Do you ever feel that God is too busy to listen to your prayers or that your concerns are just not important enough for God to be bothered? For some reason, most of us have a hard time accepting the gifts God has given us. Do we feel guilty because we're not perfect? God made us and He knows we're not perfect but He loves us anyway. As parents, that's how we feel about our children. Jesus reassures us with these words in Matthew 7:9-11: "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or, if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT

FEB 24

6:30 P.M.

As we look to the financial realities that go with a building program, we'd better turn to the Bible to see how Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross has brought us abundant life and purpose for the difficult times in which we live. This four week Bible study will remind us of why we are Christians.

PRAYER TEAM

The prayer team has been working very hard organizing and informing the congregation of prayer activities as we approach the campaign. We feel it is critical for all of us to be in prayer as this activity kicks off. Hopefully, you have noted the prayer activities in the church bulletin and have taken part at both the personal and family level. The Prayer Team will share ideas on how to incorporate prayer in your life and the lives of your families monthly during the worship services in the minute for mission segment. Please be aware that a **Candlelight Vigil** has been scheduled on March 17, at the conclusion of Rebekah's bible study. Please plan to attend.



Dedication Sunday

March 21 10 a.m.

Dedication Sunday will be a combined worship service. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m. This is the time that we will officially make our donations and future pledges to the Building for the Future Campaign. Following the combined worship service, a dedication meal will be served in Mauldin Hall. We urge the congregation to attend and celebrate together. This is sure to be a great time of fellowship and celebration.

Home Gatherings

February and March

The Home Gatherings committee led by Nannette Amaden and Priscilla Babas is so excited about being a part of the "Building For The Future" Campaign. The church has prayed, supported "Foundation for the Future" financially, and given overwhelming approval to move forward. We feel strongly that this is God's will for us. In order to answer any questions you may have concerning the building program and to hear questions other people may have, we have planned small group gatherings where a Visioning Team member will lead the discussion. You will be receiving a personal invitation to one of these meetings. We hope you will attend, become better informed and enjoy some great Christian fellowship.

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)
Bill Robinson (Carol Coopriders' brother-in-law)	Kelly Izzard (Sondra Cone's niece)
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)
Sherry Daugherty (Lisa Paterson's mother)	Jesse Heath (Dave & Sondra Cone's grandson)
Dianne, Doug & Sara Seelbach (Sofarelli's relatives)	Keven Hamlet (Jackie William's friend)
Lucy Sahr (Sondra Cone's sister)	Marci Smith (Earl & Judy Smith's daughter-in-law)
Peter & Colleen Giamanco (DeIVecchio's family)	Jason Conley (Sherry Skovgaard's nephew)
Margaret Miles (Mike Miles' mother)	Tim Slinkosky (Jean Emery's friend)
Edna Davies (Henrietta Zahrobsky's sister)	Marguerite Barnes (Marge Hubbard's friend)
Janice Bishop (David Bishop's stepmother)	Cali Moody (Priscilla Babas' friend)
Leonard Schregardus (Orthea VanVoorst's brother-in-law)	Keith Browning (Marcia Wiles' friend)
Gregory Johnston (Darwin & Pat Johnston's son)	Corey Robinson (Jackie Williams' grandson)
Kathy Welch (Sherry Skovgaard's cousin)	Sarah Hart (Amanda Trauger's grandmother)
Carol Jaegar (Suzanne Odomisi's daughter)	June McClelland (Marcia Wiles' friend)
Jesse Scott (Jane Scott's grandson)	Sharon Walker (Jean Hayhurst's friend)

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.

Welcome

When you come by the church office any morning Tuesday through Friday, you will see a new face. Tisa McRoberts has been hired as our receptionist and she will greet you warmly and help you with whatever you need.

Tisa and husband, Tim, have two children: 13 year old Jourdan and 6 year old Jaydn. They have resided in the area for about 6 years, coming from Texas.

Tisa enjoys baking, karaoke, and spending time with her family and friends. She is a member of St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Brandon.

Drop by and introduce yourself!

Looking Ahead

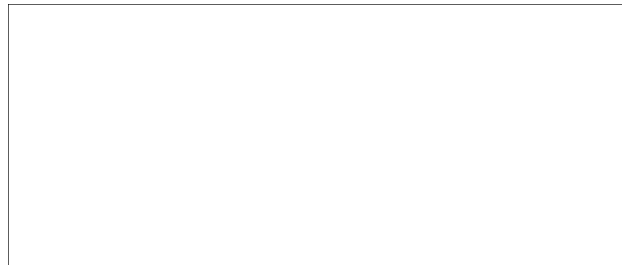
- Children's Fellowship Movie
Night: Jan 15, 5:30pm
- Youth Lock-In: Jan 15, 7:30pm
- Parents' Night Out: Jan 16, 5:30pm
- Honduras Food Drive & 3 Cents
A Meal Offering: Jan 17
- Building for the Future Kick-Off:
Jan 23, noon
- SHARE Pick Up Day: Jan 30, 9am
- Ash Wednesday Service: Feb 17,
7pm
- Confirmation Classes Begin: Feb 21,
4pm
- Building for the Future Bible Study
begins: Feb 24, 6:30pm

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 McOnnis
Peggy Nugent
Bill Ogden
Katy Reinke
David Rogers
Jim Yockey
Lynn Young*

First Presbyterian Church of Brandon
121 Carver Avenue
Brandon, FL 33510
Ph: 813-689-4597
Fax: 813-685-8419
Email: church@fpcbrandon.org
Web: fpcbrandon.org

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THANK YOU

❖... for the unit of SHARE food my family received over the holidays. Your kindness is so deeply appreciated in helping make this a great and complete day. — A SHARE recipient

❖... to everyone who contributed to the Heifer International Project during the Christmas Season. We donated \$5,260.

❖... to all you wonderful people who cleaned out their closets and donated sweaters, jackets, blankets, and sleeping bags for the homeless during the recent cold snap. — Mission Team

❖... to those who helped with the last edition of *The Happenings*: Allison Elrod, Jean Hayhurst, Suzanne Ondomisi, Jane Scott, and Becky Wathen.

WORSHIP:

9:45am - Sunday School for all ages
8:30 & 11:00am - Worship Services

Church Office Hours:

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

Baptism



Elizabeth Ann Santamaria

Born: Sept 24, 2009

Baptized: Dec 27, 2009

Parents: Miguel & Amy

Beth Moore Series

Two classes will be available beginning Jan 25th: 9:30am and 7:00pm. The 11 week study of "The Beloved Disciple" will cover the life and ministry of John. Workbooks are \$15. Please register by contacting Mary Lou Cannone at 655-5411, Elizabeth McNair at 685-8826 or the church's website.

Pastor

Rebekah A. Maul

Associate Pastor

Timothy J. Black

Director of Music and Organist

Mark A. Prater

Director of Praise Service

Bradley S. Turner

Director of Youth Ministries

Lynn Pabst

Director of the Preschool

Kathy Kranendonk

Facilities Manager

Brad Turner

Financial Manager

Marianne Evans

Administrative Assistant

Joyce Allen

Church Secretary

Kathy Kranendonk

Receptionist

Tisa McRoberts

Bookkeeper

Sue Scott

Custodian/Kitchen Coordinator

Debbie Billmaier

Nursery Coordinator

Brandi Hooper