

First Presbyterian Church
224 E. Mobile Street
Florence, AL 35630



MIDWEEK MESSENGER

Phone 256.764.2081

www.firstpresflorence.org

February 8, 2012

Dr. G. Notes: Toward the Third Century Agape Meal

I am grateful for the strong response we have thus far received from you indicating your intentions to attend our “Toward the Third Century Agape Meal” this coming Sunday immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service of worship. On this occasion you will be given information regarding a new First Presbyterian Church Endowment that will soon be set up as a means for members and friends of First Presbyterian Florence to make significant financial contributions to the church, contributions that will be protected, will serve to strengthen First Presbyterian for years and years to come, into the unforeseeable future. You will also have an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about this plan. This endowment will be managed by the Session with recommendations coming primarily through the Stewardship Committee. The main idea is to provide a means for those who love this church to make contributions to her financial security, but also to give the church’s leadership flexibility for the needs of the church as they arise.

Even though we have had a strong response for this coming Sunday, February 12th, there are still many of you from whom we have not heard. I hope each family will be represented Sunday. If you plan to attend and have not notified us, please give the church office a call, or send Peggy an email. The Agape Meal is to be understood as a continuation of our service of worship, as we will receive Communion during our gathering, giving thanks to

Dr. Richard T. Gillespie, Pastor

God for His grace poured out on us in Jesus Christ, remembering how our Lord Jesus gave all He was and all He had for us, that we might have eternal life, and have it abundantly!

Agape is God’s unconditional love that asks nothing in return from us ... God’s love revealed to us in the cross and the resurrection of Jesus. Though God’s unconditional love asks nothing of us in return, it effectively opens the door for us to live ... and to give to others as Christ lived and gave to us.

Peace be with you!

I hope to see you Sunday. Dr. G.

Our Visitors on Sunday, February 5

Lud and Linda Seme

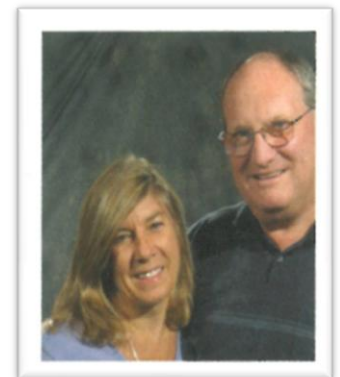
Melissa and Mike Pfarrer

Jim and Brenda Lawhern

A VISIT WITH MISSIONARIES DAVE AND SUE THOMAS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**9:40 a.m. – joint
meeting of Sunday
School classes in the
fellowship hall**

**11:00 a.m. – Dave Thomas will lead us in
worship**



PER CAPITA EXPENSE

As has been our custom, we offer the members of First Presbyterian Church the option/opportunity to pay their own per capita apportionment, i.e. the fee that is assessed by North Alabama Presbytery on each member of First Presbyterian Church, Florence. The amount per person for this year is **\$16.25**. If you would like to pay your per capita assessment, please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate it as such. Thank you!

CELEBRATE LIFE BLOOD DRIVE

in Memory of Dean Zickler

Sunday, March 4, 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Florence, AL

Fellowship Hall

12:00-5:00pm

This event is held the second Sunday of Lent as an opportunity for a "giving action" during this church season. It was inspired by a memory of Dean donating blood during a drive held at FPC.

An alternate "giving action," for those who cannot donate blood, can be made to the Help Center. You may sign up at:

<http://www.redcrossblood.org/>

(Key in 35630 and the date March 4 to sign up for a time.) Please invite your family and friends!!!!



GARDEN PROGRAM

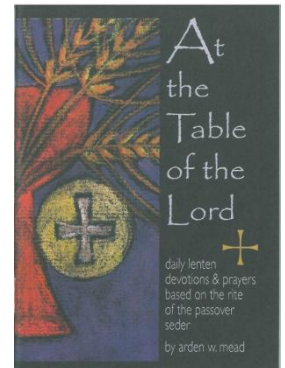
The Community Action Agency has begun signup for the Gerald Williams Cooperative Garden

Program. **Volunteers are needed** to help with distribution of seeds, plants and fertilizer to qualifying residents of Lauderdale and Colbert Counties. **If you would like to help in this endeavor, please see Hollis Wilson.**

Donations are being accepted to help fund this wonderful program that helps families grow their own food. You may make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church for "Garden Project."

The Tennessee Valley Presbyterian Cursillo will be April 19-22, 2012 at Camp Maranatha. Applications are due February 1, but the deadline has been extended indefinitely. Applications are on the front counter and Jackie Zickler can answer any questions you have regarding Cursillo.

Lenton Devotional
Booklets are
available on the side
board in the hall
outside the library.



FEBRUARY EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 9 | Congregational Care Committee |
| February 12 | 3 rd Century Agape Meal |
| February 13 | PW meet at Merrill Gardens |
| February 14 | Worship Committee and Stewardship Committee |
| February 18 | Stated Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery at St. Andrew, Decatur |
| February 21 | Men's Breakfast Gathering |
| February 28 | Stated Meeting of the Session |

You are invited to an

ART EXHIBIT

featuring

Oil Paintings by **Carol Howdysell**
and

Watercolors and Drawings by **Arzetta Mims**

Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts
Upstairs Gallery

February 1, 2012 – April 15, 2012

Gallery hours: 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

PW NEWS



PW NEWS Feature

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN, INC.

Presbyterian Women, Inc. is an independent organization within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) of more than 300,000 women becoming an incorporated entity in 2009 with a covenant relationship with PCUSA.

Voting members of the 2009 Churchwide Business Meeting of Presbyterian Women ratified the amended and restated certification of incorporation that established Presbyterian Women as a publicly supported integrated auxiliary of the PCUSA.

Over the years, it became apparent that a clear understanding about the relationship between PW and the national church structure needed to be articulated. THE COVENANT, approved August 2001, between CCT/PW (Churchwide Coordinating Team) and the General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) clarifies, enhances, and strengthens the relationship to PCUSA.

THE COVENANT is at the heart of the Biblical story, and is based on trust and fidelity and focuses more on the quality of the relationship than a contract.

For more than 200 years, Presbyterian Women have had a wonderful and major role in the missions of the Presbyterian Church and in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. The programming and resource options for the organization offer a variety of ways for women to live out their faith.

The PW Purpose: To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study; to support the mission of the church worldwide; to work for justice and peace; and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

To read more about THE COVENANT and covenant responsibilities, visit:

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/about-covenant>

SAVE THE DATE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MEETING Monday, February 13, at Merrill Gardens

9:00 a.m. – Coordinating Team
10:00 a.m. – Meeting and Devotional

VALENTINE PARTY!

*The Sewing Circle will meet
Sunday, February 19, at 3:00 p.m.*

THE HELP CENTER

Don't forget the Help Center Box in front of the library!

SAFE PLACE DONATIONS

Safe Place is looking for donations of personal items for women and toys and games for children. If you would like to make a donation, please call PW member June Helton at 256-764-7461. Pick up a list of items to be donated in the church office.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN WEEKEND

March 10 and 11 – sponsored by
Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville
“Celebrate the Gifts of Women, Aging Well in the
Faith, Gen. 16:1-15; Gen. 21:1-21”
Call Fellowship Presbyterian Church, 256-539-2418,
for reservations.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 12, 2012

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Dr. Richard T. Gillespie, Pastor

FEBRUARY 12 USHERS

Nicki Graham	Reba Hamm
Jonathan Rudolph	Hollis Wilson

READER

Bob Hurt

FLOWERS

Morgan

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

9:40 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Noon Agape Meal in the fellowship hall

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:00 a.m. PW Coordinating Team

10:00 a.m. Meeting, devotional and
Valentine Party at Merrill Gardens

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

4:30 p.m. Worship Committee

5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper/Vespers

6:30 p.m. Bible Study/Bell choir practice

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary choir practice

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Noon-1:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Ministry

by: Magnolia Church of Christ

Team Leader: Jane Frith

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Noon-1:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Ministry
by: Edgemont Methodist
Team Leader: Dixie Carter

THE SOUP SCOOP:



Friday, February 3

Trinity Episcopal, with Team Leaders Jim and Susie Robinson, served spaghetti and meatballs, salad, rolls and cake to 49 guests.

Saturday, February 4

Trinity Episcopal, with Team Leader Bert Bock, served bean/beef/potato/egg casserole, salad and cake with ice cream to 61 guests.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Eternal Light, shine into my heart;

Eternal Goodness, deliver me from evil;

Eternal Power, be my support;

Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of my ignorance;

Eternal Pity, have mercy upon me,

that with all my heart and mind and strength I may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy to your holy presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Alcuin of Tours (c. 735-804)

PRAYER LIST

HOSPITAL/ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Irving Rudolph	Merrill Gardens
Dr. Will Doss	Merrill Gardens
Helen White	Green Oaks Inn
Margaret Fleming	Columbia Cottages
Dr. John and Evelyn Carter	Merrill Gardens
Mary Hatfield	Merrill Gardens
Charline Megar	Merrill Gardens
Sarah Leonard	Wellington Place
Dr. John Nofzinger	Wellington Place
Emmy Lesch	Belmont Village
Mary Holland	Glenwood Healthcare

HOME

Freddie Tyree
Dean Jones

RELATIVES

Mildred Pflueger, mother of Richard Pflueger
Ann Moran, mother of Morris Cracraft
Kurt Henning, son of Maureen and Bob Henning
Mike Worley, brother-in-law of Rhonda Tyree
Henry Tyree, Jr.

FRIENDS

The family of the slain Mobile police officer
Wanda Teel, friend of Jane Frith

Nancy Perrit, friend of Lynn Johnson

Rod Townsley, friend of Martha Anne and
Henry Lee Parker

Libby Glascock McDaniel, friend of Martha Barton
Corporal Brian Felber

Sandy Young, friend of Irene and Robert Potts

David Howell, acquaintance of Jean Paxton

Tyler Calhoun, friend of Don Boggan

Beverly Barry Frazier, friend of Susie and Jim
Robinson

Debbie Bradford, friend of June Helton

Benjamin Coe Masters, friend of Don Boggan

Pat Summitt, friend of Martha Anne and
Henry Lee Parker

Shirley Thornton, friend of Nancy Burrows

Paige Cunningham, infant daughter of friends
of the Williams family

Morris Anderson, friend of Neil Money

Nita Miller, friend of June Helton

Donnie Akers, friend of June and Don Helton

Betty Brown, friend of Jan Schroeder

Amanda Segrest, friend of Ken and Landis Williams

Deloris Jones, friend of Ann Craig

MILITARY

CPT Barry Crosby

Travis AFB, CA

CPT Brad McGee

El Paso, TX

CPT William Gillespie

Ft. Stewart, GA

DON'T FORGET!

AGAPE MEAL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12