



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEBASTIAN, 1405 LOUISIANA AVE., SEBASTIAN, FL 32958
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*So let each one give
as he purposes in his
heart, not grudgingly
or of necessity; for God
loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Cor. 9:7



Out of the Woodwork: *Can We Count on You?* By Pastor Jeff Wood

Dear Friends,

I hope you have had the experience of someone looking you in the eye and saying to you, "You can count on me." That pledge steadies the heart. It even brings joy to it. For we know we have help, a partner.



In February, the month of love, when somewhere in the essence of love there is a person saying, "You can count on me," we are going to look at how you and I can say to God and each other that we can be counted on.

One of the things God loves is someone who gives joyfully. Can you and I be counted on to give joyfully? We will look at that especially as February is our month to ask believers to do just that with our church. We have such a good church that does such good work, week after week, but it takes a "you can count on me to give" by us all.

On March 5th we will turn in our commitment cards. These will be mailed out to all members and friends of the church. You may turn them in early. It'd be nicer if you didn't turn them in late, but you could do that, too. Bring them in person on Dedication Sunday or, if you won't be there, mail them in or drop them by.

A Commitment Card simply expresses what you will try to do, giving-wise, at the church. It is always good to have a plan, a target to shoot for, and that is not less true in our giving at church. The cards help us plan our ministry. (Can you imagine how difficult our work would be if we had to wonder each and every week what our income would be?) The amount you put on your Commitment Card is between you and God.

Grateful for you and for our ministry together, I am...

Your Pastor,

Stewardship Issue

Why I love and Support “First”

A poem by Evelyn Barrett

Let me tell you about “my church.”
 It fills my every expectation
 On Sunday mornings. I walk inside and feel the warmth
 From the smiling greeters and the warmth from the
 Ushers who hand-out the programs.
 I find a seat and glance around at all the
 Worshipers there.
 I feel content, I belong here.

God in his infinite wisdom showed me the way
 to “MY CHURCH”. I do belong here, I never had a doubt.
 I pray to the Lord, I sing his praises.
 The sermon inspires me with thoughts of God and
 Life everlasting.
 How fortunate I am to be a part of “my church”.



Susan Speaks Out: Why I Love and Support “First”

By Susan Coard

The people are so “REAL.” Everyone makes me feel special, and they really care! It is my joy and privilege to support my church, personally and financially, and to give back and serve the Lord with so many wonderful people.



What is a Commitment Card?

*A commitment card (a pledge) is a planning tool — for your budget and the Church’s. Most of us don’t leave what we give to our mortgage company up in the air. Nor do we do that with the utility company each month. We plan, and a commitment card to the church is a plan for our giving to God. It is the result of reflecting on the Bible’s teaching and of prayer. Sometimes it is simple budgeting, and sometimes it is an exciting step of faith. It is always a step of discipleship. Let’s have all our members and friends think about what they will “shoot at” for giving this next year and turn in a commitment card **March 5th** or before.*



Clerk's Corner: *Why Support “First”?*

By Jane Capo, Clerk of Session



Why support “First”? Because of people like Mary Keogh, giving years of able service as Clerk of Session. Mary, we are all grateful to God for your service and servant heart!

Because of dedicated Team Chairs, we are in good hands as Jean Valentine will serve as chair of the Worship Team; Joan Giltinan, Outreach/Evangelism; Mary Keogh, Mission Team; Ron Kelly, Stewardship/Finance; Doris Brown, Administration (which includes Building & Grounds and Thrift Shop); Kirk Woolery, Christian Education; Irene Harpley, Congregational Life; and Donna Lilga, Personnel & Policy. (Serving on a ministry team is a great way to get involved in the life of the church, and you can speak to any of these folks about that.)

We have a current membership of 157 active members and 17 affiliate members. Average Sunday morning attendance for December of 2016 was 151, with communion served to 163 persons on December 4th. Let's have everyone make a commitment to support the church with our prayers and offerings.

Clara Baldwin: *Supporting “First”*

By Charlene Peacock and Pastor Jeff



Clara Baldwin had two great loves, her church and her music.

I met Clara so long ago I cannot really remember how I did. At one time she had organized a group called The Sebastian Singers and, as I recall, their accompanist was ill so I played piano for one of their concerts. There were times when I directed the group, and this opened doors to meeting many people in the community. One year I had a concert which combined them in concert with the Melbourne Community Orchestra.

Singing in a trio was Clara's specialty. I was sitting in the first row of our church as she sang her last song. As I was listening to the first verse I thought, "This group really sounds good, I will definitely plan on having them sing again." God had other plans as Clara passed away that day.

Clara, you may not know, showed her love of her church by remembering it in her will. In life people see what we talk about, participate in, and give to. All this testifies to our values, and when what we talk about, participate in, and give to involves church, it testifies to our faith. Clara's faith is being testified to by what she gave to the church in her will. For example, last year it was her gift that enabled us to replace our old upright piano with a grand piano that delights our musicians' souls as well as our own ears.

While it is important for us as Christians to make an intelligent plan of giving to our church for 2017 to express our obedience, thanks, and trust to God, it is also important for us to make a plan in our wills to express our obedience, thanks, and trust in God. This will speak of our faith to our families and to our church for many years to come. So be like Clara and fill in a commitment card *and* speak to your advisor(s) about your will.

Mission Team: *Why Support “First”?*

by Mary Keogh

Why support “First”? The good we do. For example, we say A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Operation Shoebox and Angel Tree big successes. There were many happy children this past Christmas Season, and not only did they receive our material gifts, but also the message of Jesus Christ. Our church has a big heart and, like the Energizer Bunny, you just keep on giving. Thanks again.



Then there was how we assisted the Food Pantry with money to purchase sweet potatoes for the Thanksgiving baskets, and turkeys for the Christmas baskets.

Or look ahead...on Sunday, April 30th, the African children's choir, *Imani Milele*, will perform at our regular service. We'll be learning about and supporting needy children in Africa.

Why I love and Support “First”

By Claire Storts

I never could've imagined what God had in store for me when I walked through the doors in need of a job. I came to First Presbyterian Church seeking a part-time job, with three little ones and a difficult home life. Little did I know the influence this church would have on me. The people I encountered at FPC showed me Christ through the church's family-like feel, in the way it helps the community, and in their caring. Being at FPC is like a collection of songs that live in your heart.



Shortly after starting to work as the church secretary, the Presbyterian Women invited me to lunch after their meeting. I was shocked that a hired hand would be invited to such a beautiful event and I was welcomed like I'd been there forever. Every Tuesday I would see the faithful prayer warriors coming in to earnestly pray for the concerns of the church and caring so much about each and every person they prayed for. I witnessed the men and Jinny every Thursday morning, coming to work on the church's landscaping. It struck me how these people treated the church like it was their own family, rolled up their sleeves and went to work. Afterwards, they always offered me some of their donuts and coffee. Every Thursday Polly and the bulletin folders would come in and help with the bulletin not for pay, simply for the love of Christ. I saw Juanita, Kathy, Mona, and Mary's consistently smiling faces come in to volunteer and do their part to keep the church and the community going. I could feel the Holy Spirit and the love in their hearts.

The caring at First Presbyterian extends far beyond its doors. I always delighted in addressing envelopes with donations for the missions our church supported. I remember the line that extended around the block and down the street for the Thanksgiving food boxes. The volunteers came in early in the morning and worked tirelessly, giving of themselves to help feed the community. I also witnessed the church welcome groups like Special Gathering and Teen Challenge with love and humility. If anyone ever asks me about my experience at FPC, they will see a smile come to my face and a tear come to my eye as I fondly recall all the love and amazing people that make up this community of believers.

Music Department: *Why Support “First”?*

by Charlene Peacock, Director of Music



Why support “First”? Because of our terrific music. We’re a place where everyone can be involved!

We have programs like the *SONSHINE SINGERS AND MUSICIANS*, who had their first rehearsal and program in January. This new group consists of people who like to sing and have a love for music. It is open to the community and requires few rehearsals. The purpose is to reach into our community and provide music to those in rehab centers, senior day care centers and nursing facilities. (The *SONSHINE SINGERS AND MUSICIANS* group also provides a good way to meet new people with interests similar to yours. You can ask any choir member for more information, or call 321-480-4714.)

And look at the offerings we enjoy...

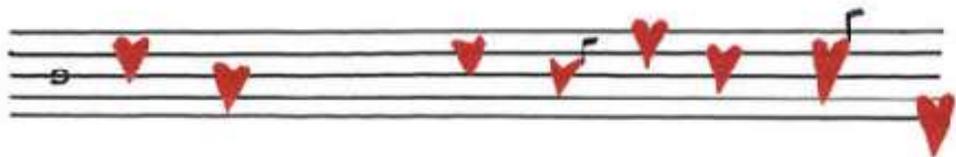
Concert of Love, February 12, 5 p.m. (with dinner to follow)

The program will feature selections from hit Broadway musicals and some of the most beloved Romantic Piano literature. Mark and Eun Nelson will take you on love’s journey featuring selections such as *Getting to Know You*, *If I Loved You*, and *Some Enchanted Evening*. The couple’s talent, musicianship and enthusiasm has been mesmerizing audiences for years!



Mark is known as an active conductor/clinician and musician. He has conducted ensembles across the country and at National Music Conferences. Mark continues to be a music educational resource for educators across the United States. He has recreated leading roles in over 20 musicals from New York to Florida.

Eun is a graduate of the Seoul Conservatory of Music in South Korea where she excelled as a piano performance major. Her musicianship, virtuosity, and emotionally moving performances have been lauded throughout performances in Asia and Europe. She continues to perform along with maintaining a large private piano studio.



when I think of you, my heart sings a little love song.

Outreach & Evangelism: Supporting “First” with...

By Joan Giltinan



Have you checked out our Outdoor Lighted Sign lately?



MESSAGES FOR LIVING (January 2017)

We cannot change the past,
but God is changing us for the future.

God’s love for us is as expansive
as Jesus’ open arms on the cross.

Prayer is the place
where burdens change shoulders.

Faith connects our weakness to God’s strength.

We Need YOUR Photo in Our New *Pictorial Directory*!

You can make your photo appointment by clicking on the link on our website (www.welovefirst.org).

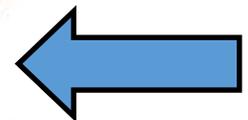
Photo Dates/Times

- Tues. Feb. 7th 1-8 pm
- Wed. Feb. 8th 10 am – 5 pm
- Thur. Feb. 9th 10 am – 5 pm
- Fri. Feb. 10th 10 am – 5 pm



WE NEED YOU

to make our new family directory complete



Remember: You will receive a *Directory* & a free 8x10 Color Portrait!!!



Welcome *Discover* “FIRST” friends... January 18, 2017



George & Roxie Hall



Ann Mensinger



Tom & Beverly Killian



Linda Weeks



Stan & Helga LaVoque



Betty Berry

Presbyterian Women (PW)

From Doris Brown



The PW Coordinating Team will meet on February 2nd at 10 am. We welcome anyone who would like to come and join the team.

Martha Circle began a new bible study series entitled “*Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes*”. The circle meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. to share lunch and fellowship. **ALL** ladies of the church are certainly welcome to come and be a part of this fellowship.

The Quarterly Gathering was held on Thursday, January 26th. It was a pot luck luncheon, and our guest speaker, Ashley Penne, presented her thoughts on *R U O K*, which is an organization to care for the senior citizens in our community by encouraging people to call and check on the elderly in our town. As we each grow older and possibly alone, this is an important topic to consider.

We are preparing to hold a **FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON** on **March 18th at 11:30 a.m.** in the Gathering Room. Fashions will be presented by Bon Worth of Vero. It will be a “trunk sale” which means they will have fashions on hand for you to purchase at the show. It will be a salad luncheon that will be prepared by our own Irene Harpley, with help from the Coordinating team. Tickets will be available soon, so please put this event on your social calendar. We are hoping for a good turn out. It is not just for women either. We are hoping to encourage our gentlemen to come and enjoy the event also. The money raised by this luncheon will be put towards the missions that the PW supports, which include *Safe Space*, Thornwell Home, the Ecumenical Food



Pantry and Central Florida Presbytery. These missions are separate from those of the church and are supported by pledges of the PW women and other activities they do to raise money, such as the bake sale we hold each year.

We look forward to seeing **ALL** of you soon and encourage you to become part of **Presbyterian Women**.

Sign outside Madison Avenue Baptist Church, Manhattan, NY:

“There are people who would love to have your bad days.”

— Pastor Susan Sparks



“To keep a fire burning brightly, keep two logs together, near enough to keep each other warm, and far enough apart for breathing room. The same rule holds for a good marriage.”

—Author unknown

Lit Lovers Book Club

By Mary Keogh

Come join our book discussion group. The more people, the livelier the discussion. We meet on the second Monday of each month and our next meeting is Monday, February 13th at 1:00 pm.

Our February selection is ***Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah**. This is a powerful, heartbreaking novel that illuminates the intricate mother-daughter bond and explores the enduring links between the present and the past.



Future selections are *Kim* by Rudyard Kipling; *Letters from Yellowstone* by Diane Smith; *The Romance Reader's Book Club* by Julie Cannon; *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh; *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman; and *The Boys In The Boat* by Daniel Brown.

If you have any questions, call Mary Keogh at 772-332-5205. Happy Reading!

February Birthdays and Anniversaries



Anniversaries

2/14 Terry and Donna Lemon (30th)

Birthdays

2/2 Merrill Wood

2/9 Bob Brown

2/11 Susan Coard

2/15 Mona Young

2/16 Gloria Fennell

2/18 Ruth McKinney

2/18 Donald Wilson

2/26 Gerry Lewis

2/28 Flora Turner



Is your name missing from our birthday/anniversary list? Please let the church office know so we can update our records and celebrate your special day(s)!

Why Support “First”? *Because we pray....*



Concerns This Week:

Judy Baysinger's daughter, Melanie
Betty Berry's granddaughter, Emily
Robin (Anderson) Boyd's sister-in-law,
Lynn, & mother-in-law, Lee
Bob (Doris) Brown
Bob Brown's cousin, Ann Marie Glenn
Jamie Clark
Pat Dwyer's nephew, Brian Cooper
Billie Gregg
Arnold Kimmel's sister, Martha Kimmel
Kraftchaks' friend, Dan Masessa
Letricks' son, David
Nancy Marine
Dot Restum's cousin, George
Hassan Restum's friend, Sam Hallick
Debbie Sladen's mother, Ann Powers,
sister & brother in law, & friend,
Bruce
Sherry Whitcomb's brother, Bob English
Pastor Jeff's son, Aaron

Current Prayer Requests:

Rosemary Abma's son, Hank
Joyce Anderson's brother-in-law, Bruce
Day, & friend Arlene's sister, Janet
Harriet Beatty
Al Berni
Bernis' friend, Maria Debonis
Betty & Jack Boardman
LuAnn & Steven Borsse
Doug Boyd
Bob Brown's cousins, Suzanne & John
Schlicker
Doris Brown's friend, Joann Langevin
Pat Carroll and sister, Sandy
Sally Clark's friend, Adele
Elsie Colwell
Roger Decker's grandson, Monroe Williams
Sandy Doughty's daughter, Melissa King
Gloria Fennell
Shirley Gill
Joan Giltinan's niece, Pam, & husband,
John
Michael Glick
Greggs' daughter, Rachel
Bruce Haight
Eleanor Hakes' son-in-law, Bruce
Barbara/Wayne Harding
Mildred Hartman
Hislops' family in Scotland
Dave Huffman
Josie/John Jaynes



Jerry Jessup
Kellys' friend, Paul Grobe
Kelly's/Bell's friend, Dave
Joan Killian
Killians' granddaughter, Rebecca
Arnold (Joan) Kimmel
Joan & Bill Kraftchak
Juanita Leioatts
Juanita Leioatts' grand-niece, Paisley
Linder
Donna Lemon's brother, Bobby, & sister,
Alice
Gerry Lewis
Stan Linder
Nancy Loichytz's daughter, Suzanne, and
friend's daughter, Kristin
Mona and Norm Lopez
Anne McBride's husband, William
Sylvia McFadden's sons, Philip & Daniel
Myra Mende's grandson, Kyle
Mary Jo Morrow
Dick Nafziger
Pat Nelson's granddaughters, Megan &
Molly
Hester O'Carroll
Carol & Greg Plummer
Audrey Reed
Pam Richardson's sister-in-law, Robin
Bebe Rowe
Carol (Dick) Roy
Bess Scholten's granddaughter Jamey's
aunt
Bill (Bess) Scholten
Priscilla and Sam Spear
June Taylor's granddaughter, Mellanie
Jean Valentine's son, Jamie
Juanita Welsh's friend, Ann Sage
Pastor Jeff Wood's friends, Ed Walraven,
& Nathan and Bonnie Thom

Continuing Prayer Requests:

Roe Abma's friend Rina
Thelma Andresen's sister, Sharon
June (John) Atta
Jack Ayers
Katelynn Bauer
Judy Baysinger
Bells' grandson Taylor, & friend, Norman
Roxie Buhr
Gertrude Dinnany
Elliot's neighbors, Doug & Rachel Plasman
Bertha Golle
Phil & Ellie Gregory & daughter, Andrea
Eleanor Hakes

Sam Harpley
Bob Keith
Bill Kraftchak's brother, James, &
friends Bernie & Jinja
Kellys'/Bells' friends, Dave & Donna
Leioatts' neighbor's son, Tom Thomp-
son
Juanita Leioatt's sister, Sue
Terry & Donna Lemon
Donna Lilga's daughter, Myra, & friend,
Carol
Nancy Loichytz
Norm Lopez's daughter, Liz, & friend,
Norma
Don MacLean, Jr.
Dave Pierson
Carol Plummer's son, Flavio Pierri, &
friends, Fiona Atwell, Joe Cruz &
Joan Boulay
Jan Rapacke's friend, Anna
Mary Rawn
Audrey Reed's sister, Maryanne
Dot Restum's granddaughter, Loriel
Mabel Rohr
Marge Royce
Bob & Georgette Shambo
Bob Wannop
Don Wilson's son, James
Ronda Wilson
Mona Wood
Kirk Woolery's sister, Midge Engle
People whose lives and homes contin-
ue to be impacted by floods, fires, &
tornadoes, ice & snow

Grieving:

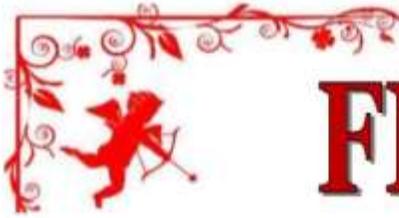
Kathy Morrison & family on the death
of her husband, Bob (12/11/16)
Betty & Dave Letrick, on the death of
their nephew, Tim
Jan Rapacke, on the death of her sister,
Marlyne

Missionaries:

Dan & Elizabeth Turk
Rodney & Sharyn Babe



If you have a prayer request,
you may email it to:
office@welovefirst.org
or call the office: 772-586-5656



FEBRUARY 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <i>His command is that you walk in love... 2 John 6</i>			1 9am Pastor's Bible Study 10 am Thrift Shop Mtg. 11 am O/E Team 2:30 pm Mission Team	2 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop 10am PW Coord. Team	3 OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 1pm Bridge	4 9-3 Thrift Shop
5 8:45 Cafe' 9 Bible Study/Choir 10 Worship 11 Coffee	6 1pm Bridge 7pm Bible Study	7 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP 10:15 Cong Life 1pm Admin Team 1-8pm LIFETOUCH  2:30 Stew/Fin 6pm Step Group	8 9am Pastor's Bible Study 10-5pm LIFETOUCH  4pm Choir 	9 7am B & G 10-5pm LIFETOUCH  10:15 PW Board 9-3 Thrift Shop	10 OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 10-5pm LIFETOUCH  1pm Bridge	11 9-3 Thrift Shop
12 8:45 Cafe' 9 Bible Study/Choir 10 Worship 11 Coffee 5 pm Concert of Love (supper to follow) 	13 1pm Bridge 1pm Book Club 7pm Bible Study	14 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP 3pm Session <i>Happy</i>  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 9am Pastor's Bible Study 11:30am Martha Circle 4pm Choir	16 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop	17 OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 1pm Bridge	18 9-3 Thrift Shop
19 8:45 Cafe' 9 Bible Study/Choir 10 Worship 11 Coffee	20 1pm Bridge 7pm Bible Study	21 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP	22 9am Pastor's Bible Study 4pm Choir	23 7am B & G 9-3 Thrift Shop 12pm Worship	24 OFFICE CLOSED 9-3 Thrift Shop 1pm Bridge	25 9-3 Thrift Shop
26 8:45 Cafe' 9 Bible Study/Choir 10 Worship 11 Coffee	27 1pm Bridge 7pm Bible Study	28 9-3 Thrift Shop 9am CAP	ELDER OF THE MONTH: Dick Sladen CHURCH AT PRAYER: Jane Capo			<i>Live every moment. Laugh everyday Love beyond words</i> 

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEBASTIAN

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www.facebook.com/welovefirstsebastian

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Thrift Shop

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To know Christ and to make Christ known.

Remember these dates:

Lifetouch Photo Sessions

February 7, 1pm to 8pm

February 8, 10am to 5pm

February 9, 10am to 5pm

February 10, 10am to 5pm

*February 12, 5:00 p.m.: **Concert of Love** (with supper to follow)*



♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥