


“Glad Tidings”



Wekiva Presbyterian Church

Conversations . . .

As I write this, the latest news is that “The Big Tree” is no more. Those who live in our part of Central Florida heard the news yesterday. The “Largest Cypress in the USA” was 3500-years old. Authorities believe that the tree was struck by lightning, or parts of it had rubbed together enough to spark a flame, 125 feet up, that turned it into a giant chimney. Until yesterday, The Big Tree (also known as The Senator) had only 4 other trees in the world verified to be older. The tree was older than the oldest giant sequoia. It was older by about fifty years than King Tut of Egypt. The tree’s “half way point” between when it first sprouted and when it perished was about the time of our Lord Jesus Christ’s ministry in Galilee and Judea.

From time to time, Judy, the kids, our parents, and I visited The Big Tree. It was, after all, just down the road. We always found the visits to be peaceful as well as awe-inspiring.

*We are moving into Lent, the season in the church when we focus on the ministry of Jesus, leading to the events of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Yes, it seems a bit early to be talking about such things, but not really. **Ash Wednesday is February 22.** That is very soon indeed. On Ash Wednesday evening we will worship together in our Sanctuary, placing our lives into Christ’s hands as we seek the renewal of our minds and spirits.*

Sometimes we think we can put off doing something because it is there and it will always be there. Maybe you felt that way about The Big Tree. Maybe you never went to see it. Or it was a long time since you stood beneath its spreading branches. Now it is gone.

Sometimes we think we can put off seeking the presence of our Living Lord, because, “He is there and will always be there.” True, Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega. But what about you? When will the unexpected day arrive when it is too late for you to find the newness and strength, the inspiration and direction that Christ alone can give you?

It is my prayer that you will make a point to be here on Ash Wednesday and in worship every Sunday during Lent. In as much as you are here, the Lord will reenergize you. And remind you that our shared history in the faith goes back a long time. And assure you that you are one of the branches, making your church grow and thrive. Jesus says so:




“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. But apart from me, you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

Blessings,

John A. Dalles, Pastor

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“Bringing Your Faith to Life”

	<p><i>Teaching God’s Word</i></p>
	<p><i>Serving God’s People</i></p>
	<p><i>Modeling Christ’s Love</i></p>

Paul's Letter To The Wekivans . . .



A woman woke up one morning, turned to her husband and said, "Honey, I just had a dream that you bought me a new gold necklace. What do you think it means?" He answered, "I don't know, but Valentine's Day is coming soon. Then you'll know." A few nights later, she again woke up after having a dream. She said, "This time, I dreamed you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?" "You'll know on Valentines' Day," he replied. The morning of Valentine's Day, she again woke up telling him about her dream: "This time I dreamed that you brought me a diamond necklace. What do you think it means?" "Honey, be patient," he said. "You'll know tonight." That evening, the husband came home with a package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it--and found a book titled *The Meaning of Dreams*.

<http://www.preaching.com/sermon-illustrations>.

It is that time of year. There is something in the air. Something that begins to stir in our hearts and fills us with warm feelings and love. I am of course talking about the high school mission trip. Our destination for 2012 is Columbia, South Carolina. This year's trip is entitled "In The Zone." Our goal is to spread the Word of God throughout the state's capital city. The philosophy for these trips is three fold. During our adventure we spread God's Word by doing God's work. We build life-long friendships within the group, and we grow in our own personal relationship with God. In other words, we know that God loves us and we want to spread that love far and wide. It is our way of making everyday Valentine's day. The thread that is woven throughout this entire process is love. It is God's love that brings us together. It is out of love that we respond: Rent-a-Yute projects, mission trip work day, and the actual mission trip. But, maybe the most exciting part is the love of this congregation that makes all of this possible: supporting our fundraising efforts, joining the Guardian Angel program, praying for us, reading and appreciating the "Did You Know" articles, keeping in touch while on the trip by reading Dr. Dalles' blog and the list goes on. Our love for God and our love we show as a strong congregation are wonderful because we are a people of God serving, working, and loving God with our heart, mind, strength and soul, and we are loving our neighbors as ourselves. As Scripture tells us, "See what love the Father has for us that we should be called Children of God." Thank you again for all that you do as a congregation.

Peace,

Paul



Mission & Benevolence Committee . . .



The 2012 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study is available for your use for daily personal devotions, to learn about the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the mission personnel and volunteers around the world that it supports, presbytery and synod staffs throughout the country, and in preparation for worship. Copies are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. You are invited to use them at the church, or to take one home for further study. Please bring the books back when you are finished with them for others to use.

The Mission and Benevolence Committee welcomed three new members at its January meeting: Fred Kaufmann, Martha Newhart, and Kim Burns. Continuing members are Kimm Brunk, Nadyne Pennington, Carole Bruce, and Nancy Ocque. The Committee appreciates the leadership of Dori DeBord-Stone as Chairperson for the past three years, and Jim Brown who served on the committee for several years. New members are always welcome. If you would be interested in serving on the committee, please contact The Rev. Paul Anderson or Nancy Ocque.

Nurturing Notes . . .



Let's make February Wekiva Has a Heart Month! Since February is the month when we celebrate love, we can spend the month showing our love to our church and community. Here are a few ideas.

Shop all of the buy one get one sales in the food store and donate the extra items to our monthly food collection.

Clean out your closets and garage and get ready for the church yard sale March 10.

Invite someone from our community to attend Sunday service with you.

Volunteer to usher, greet, work at the yard sale, or serve on a committee.

Make it a point to greet and meet one new person each week when you come to worship.

Save all of your aluminum soft drink cans to help our Montreat music group.

Make a Lenten resolution to speak only positive things about your church home. We are truly blessed, and we should make a habit of reflecting on these blessings.

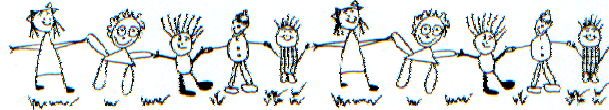
Make a point to thank someone each day who has done something that has blessed your life or the life of Wekiva Presbyterian Church.

Remember to post your needs and find your match on the Golden Opportunities Board in Reception Hall.



THE CHRISTIAN CHILD CENTER

A WONDERFUL PLACE TO BE ...



REGISTER YOUR PRESCHOOLER NOW

FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR!

Please contact the CCC office at 407-862-8445

For more information or to schedule a tour.



“Looking Ahead and Looking Up!”

The Wekiva Legacy Society was formed a year ago, as a way of saying thank you to those who have decided to provide for Wekiva Presbyterian Church into the future. The idea came to the church because a sister congregation, the Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church in Tampa, has had a similar legacy society for many, many years, to say thank you to those who have remembered their church in their estate planning.

With that in mind the church created The Wekiva Legacy Society to recognize all those church members who are “*Looking Ahead*”, and have chosen to extend their support of the church beyond their own lifetime, with an eye to the generations that will follow.

You may have noticed that Dr. Dalles and other members of the Wekiva Legacy Society wear an attractive, square blue lapel pin on Sunday mornings. The pin is unique to the Wekiva Legacy Society. It is designed in shades of pewter and “Presbyterian blue” to look like the skylight in the center of Wekiva’s Sanctuary. It is a reminder that all who are in the Wekiva Legacy Society are “*Looking Ahead and Looking Up*” as commit to the future through God’s providence and grace.

There are many ways to remember the church in your estate planning. Many Wekiva Legacy Society members have found that the simplest way to do this is to make the church one of their life insurance beneficiaries.

In the fall, on “Scottish Sunday”, there will be a second annual Wekiva Legacy Society luncheon to say thank you to all who have remembered the church in this way. Anyone who joins the Wekiva Legacy Society up through that day will be considered a Charter Member of the society. If you would like to know more about the Wekiva Legacy Society or to become a member, speak with Dr. Dalles or one of the members of the Endowment Trust Committee: Sam Tomlinson, Gary Adams, Tom Roberts, David Fazekas, Nadyne Pennington, and Brandon Woods.

Bereavement Group Information . . .



Recognizing a need within the congregation for a program which ministers to our members and friends who have suffered the loss of loved ones, a Bereavement group, will begin in February.

The group will meet for five straight weeks. Sally McCall, church member and licensed mental health counselor will lead the meetings. The sessions will provide healing, sharing, networking and education, allowing time for sharing and discussion, reflection and resolve. Each weekly session will address different issues of the grieving process.

The following topics will be covered:

- What people experience following a loss.
- Why people experience it.
- Accepting the reality of the loss.
- Working through the pain of grief.
- Adjusting to an environment where a loved one is missing.
- Emotionally “relocating” and moving on.
- Helping people with various grief tasks.
- How to know when grief is finished.

Since this is a group meeting, a large part of how the meeting will function will be left up to the group.

Dates:

February 16, 2012 ~ 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

February 23, 2012 ~ 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

March 1, 2012 ~ 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

March 8, 2012, 2009 ~ 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

March 15, 2012 ~ 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

If you are interested in being part of this five-week session please call the church office and speak to Heidi to register for the program.



Hello Wekivans!

This is Hattie the Church Mouse. No, I am not the kind of mouse you see in your homes—beside your keyboards. I am not an *Electric* Mouse. Perish the thought! Although people have said I have the spark of inspiration about me, and am very energetic, to boot, I am not the kind of mouse that you consult when you boot your computer. Even so I hope you get a charge out of what I write to you in my monthly byline.

I am more of an *Eclectic* Mouse. You see, my sweets, Hattie is coming to you from here, there and everywhere around the congregation, gathering up all kinds of news you can use and tidbits you may choose. My message is "*Always on Page Six*" kind of like that other "*Page Six*" in that famous newspaper from the Big Apple. Here, we are closer to the Big Potato (which is the meaning of the Native American name, Apopka). But back to my point as the pencil said to the eraser. Since the church is my stomping grounds, it is also my job to be an *Ecclesiastic* Mouse. As in so what have I noticed as January turns to February?

One thing I have noticed is that no matter how fast I may manage to scurry, I am not nearly as fleet on my four feet as one of our Wekivans is in his two shoes. If you guessed I mean Sean S, goodie! You are correct. Did you know that Sean was in the Mouse Marathon (at the Biggest Mouse of them all, em-eye-see, kay-ee-why, em-oh-you-ess-ee!) and he ran so fast that the newsreel cameras could not keep up with him. Just one Presbyterian blur! And that was good because now he has qualified for the most famous race of them all. No not the human race, he is already in that one. The Boston Marathon, my poppets. So expect to continue to see Sean run, along Wekiva Springs Road as he prepares for Boston in 2013. And if you see him on the pathway, give him a wave. I hear a rumor that there may be a group planning to go to Boston to cheer Sean on... Could be!

Whether you like the weather or not, my nose was cold and my toes were cold in January. Chili as I may have been, there was chili galore at the January fellowship dinner and Iron Chef Cook-Off to warm us up. We do like our chili. Some like it hot (as did Jack, Tony and Marilyn, not to mention Sweet Sue and her society syncopaters). Hooray to all who entered and those whom the judges smiled upon and thanks and a big smoocharoonie go out to Jim R. and all of his delightful deacons who made the evening such a success.

There have been flocks of crows in our evergreen trees around the church parking lot, and some of you have seen the red shouldered hawk soaring and swooping and perching on the signs in the parking lot, and now I see that there are dragons in among the bushes at the church. Would Hattie make up such a thing? Never, my gentle readers. No, I am refereeing to the snap dragons that are bringing us brightly colored joys. Steve was on his knees planting them—and they do look pretty.

Thinking back a few weeks, wasn't it a treat to see all the new officers get ordained and installed and off to a fresh start in the New Year? The brand new elders and deacons were on their knees, as well. I myself did not kneel at that point, but did manage to keep a low profile.

My tail is getting much too long, so I will say a fond farewell for now. And remember, "*If there's something happening at Wekiva, I never keep it under my hat!*"

Toodles!

- Hattie the Eclectic, Ecclesiastic Mouse



Notes from the Loft



♪ ♥ Alexandra Pistor Chelsea and Olivia Siegner Kim and Lydia Strawn Andrew Yowler ♥ ♪

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In February of 2008, we held our very first 'Sweetheart' fundraiser. Ten active members of this church attended that year. In the ad, I mentioned that this conference would feed their 'body, mind, spirit and soul'...attendees would come back eager to share their experiences...and that 'this positive energy' would help us to grow our music program and inspire our young people. As we prepare for our *fifth* Montreat Worship and Music Conference in the lovely setting of Black Mountain, NC, I am happy to inform you that including Aloma, and me, we have 22 attending this summer!

On **Sunday, February 12th**, we invite you to enjoy one of our tasty mini cupcakes all decked out for Valentine's Day (between and after services) and grab one of our handmade 'Sweetheart' envelopes ('Love-Lopes') to fill during the week with your pocket change or 'quiet' money.

You'll bring your filled **Love-Lope** back on Sunday, February 19th, and place it in one of our 'Sweetheart' receptacles in the Reception Hall. Your **sweet LOVE** donation will help those listed in the margin of this article participate in this summer's Worship and Music Conference... "**In God's Abundance ... Living ~ Moving ~ Being**" ... June 23 - June 30.

*Help us keep the heartbeat **strong** for worship at Wekiva!*

Peace!
Betsy and Aloma

Breanna Harshman
Melissa Pennington
Christina Thurmond

P.N.O.

February 11th
(4:30 - 9:00)

Spend a romantic, quiet Saturday evening with your spouse



Drop the little ones off at the church with the Montreat conferees. We've planned a special Valentine celebration for the kids this evening. (All proceeds go to defer the cost of the Worship and Music conference)

Betsy, Dan, Emily, and Jeff Bone Aloma Bratek Jarrett and Kimm Brunk Kayla Glefke
Samantha Shaffer
♥ ♪ Ethan, Libby, and Kim Burns Zach Williams ♥ ♪

Registration forms in Reception Hall.

Wekiva Presbyterian Women . . .



*Don't forget Winter Gathering, "With a Song in My Heart", Tuesday evening, February 7th, at 7:00. Enjoy a yummy dessert buffet, and hear our wonderful Wekiva musicians. Cost is \$5, and proceeds go to benefit the Music Department.

*FEBRUARY IS BETA BABY SHOWER MONTH. Please contribute new baby items, newborn diapers, and developmental toys. Beta cannot accept used items. Let's load up the playpen in Reception Hall. Contact Susan Curry for more information.

*Plan ahead for Gifts of Women Sunday, March 4th, and our new, and unique Refashion Show, which will take place at the Mother-Daughter Tea in May. For more information about the refashion show, contact Donna Coad.

*Remember, PW maintains the Prayer Chain. You may send your request directly to wekivaprayerchain@gmail.com.

Kim Harshman, Moderator 407-880-6557

Renee Bell, Vice-Moderator 407-880-8510

Wekiva Presbyterian Church

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Longwood, Florida 32779

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Wekiva Art Council . . .



The WPC Art Council would like to feature composers, authors and poets for the next two months!

Please submit your works of art (books, stories, poems, news articles, music you've written) to Heidi McCall in the church office, **WITH YOUR NAME ON IT**, so it may be picked up by the art council and featured in this special art display!

For any questions, please call Heidi Efta!





February 2012



Wednesday, February 1, 2012

12:00 pm AA Meeting
 3:30 pm Kid's Club
 5:30 pm Genesis Bell Rehearsal
 6:00 pm Daisy Scout Troop 986
 7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting

Thursday, February 2

12:00 pm AA Meeting
 6:00 pm Tutor House
 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack 46
 7:00 pm Human Resources Committee
 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 3

12:00 pm AA Meeting
 3:30 pm Brownie Troop 273 Meeting
 8:00 pm AA Meeting

Saturday, February 4

9:00 am Weekly Writer's Group

Sunday, February 5

Scout Sunday
 2012 Mission Trip Emergency Form Due
 No Middle School or High School Youth Clubs
 8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am Sunday School
 9:45 am Confirmation Class
 11:00 am Worship Service
 6:00 pm Mission:FAITH Rehearsal

Monday, February 6

12:00 pm AA Meeting
 6:15 pm Heavenly Vibrations Rehearsal
 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 203
 7:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
 8:00 pm AA Meeting

Tuesday, February 7

9:00 am Outreach Committee
 12:00 pm AA Meeting
 6:30 pm Long Range Planning Committee
 7:00 pm PW Winter Gathering Dinner
 7:15 pm Music Committee
 7:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 8

12:00 pm AA Meeting
 3:30 pm Kid's Club
 5:30 pm Genesis Bell Rehearsal
 6:00 pm Daisy Scout Troop 986
 6:30 pm Mission & Benevolence
 7:00 pm Congregational Nurture
 7:00 pm CE Committee
 7:00 pm Property Committee
 7:00 pm Worship Committee

Thursday, February 9

9:00 am Beth Moore Bible Study
 12:00 pm AA Meeting
 6:00 pm Tutor House
 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack 46
 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 10

12:00 pm AA Meeting
 3:30 pm Daisy Troop Meeting
 8:00 pm AA Meeting

Saturday, February 11

9:00 am Weekly Writer's Group
 10:00 am PW Sewing Practice
 3:30 pm Cub Scout Pack 46 - Blue & Gold Banquet
 4:00 pm Parent's Night Out

Sunday, February 12

Two Cents Per Meal
 8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am New Member Orientation
 9:45 am Sunday School
 9:45 am Confirmation Class
 11:00 am Worship Service
 4:30 pm Middle School Youth Club
 6:00 pm Mission:FAITH Rehearsal
 7:00 pm NO SENIOR HIGH YOUTH CLUB

Monday, February 13

12:00 pm AA Meeting
 6:15 pm Heavenly Vibrations Rehearsal
 7:00 pm CCC Board Committee
 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 203
 7:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
 8:00 pm AA Meeting

Tuesday, February 14

9:00 am Outreach Committee
 10:00 am PW Coordinating Team
 12:00 pm AA Meeting
 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision
 7:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 15

12:00 pm AA Meeting
 3:30 pm Kid's Club
 5:30 pm Genesis Bell Rehearsal
 6:00 pm Daisy Scout Troop 986
 7:00 pm Stewardship Committee
 7:00 pm Youth Committee



February 2012



Thursday, February 16

- 12:00 pm AA Meeting
- 6:00 pm Tutor House
- 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack 46
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 17

- 12:00 pm AA Meeting
- 3:30 pm Brownie Troop 273 Meeting
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting

Saturday, February 18

- 9:00 am Weekly Writer's Group
- 10:00 am Cub Scout Pack 46 - Pine Wood Derby

Sunday, February 19

- 2012 Mission Trip Work Day
- No Youth Clubs
- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 9:45 am Confirmation Class
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 5:00 pm Christian Singles & Couples United
- 6:00 pm Mission:FAITH Rehearsal

Monday, February 20

- 12:00 pm AA Meeting
- 6:15 pm Heavenly Vibrations Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 203
- 7:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting

Tuesday, February 21

- 9:00 am Outreach Committee
- 10:00 am PW Morning Circle
- 12:00 pm AA Meeting

Tuesday, February 21 (continued)

- 1:30 pm Village on the Green Circle
- 7:00 pm PW Evening Circle
- 7:00 pm Finance Committee
- 7:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 22

- 12:00 pm AA Meeting
- 3:30 pm Kid's Club
- 5:30 pm Genesis Bell Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Daisy Scout Troop 986

Thursday, February 23

- 9:00 am Beth Moore Bible Study
- 12:00 pm AA Meeting
- 6:00 pm Tutor House
- 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack 46
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 24

- 12:00 pm AA Meeting
- 3:30 pm Daisy Troop Meeting
- 5:00 pm Staff & Officer Retreat
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting

Saturday, February 25

- 7:30 am Staff & Officer Retreat
- 9:00 am Weekly Writer's Group

Sunday, February 26

- Food Drive Sunday
- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 9:45 am Confirmation Class
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 12:15 pm "Sanctuary" Worship Band Rehearsal
- 4:30 pm Middle School Youth Club
- 6:00 pm Mission:FAITH Rehearsal

Sunday, February 26 (continued)

- 7:00 pm Senior High Youth Club

Monday, February 27

- 12:00 pm AA Meeting
- 6:15 pm Heavenly Vibrations Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 203
- 7:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting

Tuesday, February 28

- 9:00 am Outreach Committee
- 12:00 pm AA Meeting
- 7:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 29

- 12:00 pm AA Meeting
- 3:30 pm Kid's Club
- 5:30 pm Genesis Bell Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Daisy Scout Troop 986
- 7:00 pm Session Meeting

February 2012						
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