

2015 Officer Nominations

In your bulletins this morning you will find the 2015 Nominating Committee Brochure. Please submit the names of those whom you feel would serve well as an Elder, Trustee or Deacon either through this brochure or by e-mailing your nominees to nominations@firstpres.cc. **Deadline is NEXT Monday, September 14, 2015.**

The Sanctuary Renovations are on Target

The painting is done, the new carpeting is in, the pews are now refinished and re-upholstered! The new choir chairs are on their way! If you would like to see what has been selected, a color and fabric sample display board is in the Neumann Center entryway.

We need smiling faces to help us welcome members, visitors and guests to each of our three worship services as an usher! If you like to smile and enjoy meeting new people, please contact Ellen Whiteman at 954-598-9360 or at EllenW@firstpres.cc and let her know that you're ready to serve! We'll be looking for you!

We welcome you to Elevate!

Elevate is student-led worship for High School students and will launch on **September 16** at 7pm. Each Wednesday High School students can come and enjoy community with friends, Bible study, worship and small group discussion. Elevate will be held in the youth center following Homework in the Harbor. The student worship team has been working hard all summer preparing. A huge thank you goes out to Andrew Storrs for his hard work preparing and discipling the new worship team. We welcome students to bring a friend! Contact Nic Merchant or Ayla Kohler for any questions at NicM@firstpres.cc and AylaK@firstpres.cc.

Mission Possible Kids: Where Kids Change the World

New Agent Training: Wednesday, September 16, 6pm, St. Andrew's Rm. If you're in Grades 1-5, if you want to make a difference in the world, if you want to show the grown-up agents how it's done, YOU can become a Special Agent with *Mission Possible Kids*. For more info, Contact Cindy Vason at 954-598-9341 or CindyV@firstpres.cc.

The Adult Activity Center for Senior Adults (AAC)

Thursday, September 17: Welcome Back Celebration
11:15 am Each Thursday • 12:15 pm Lunch (RSVP please!)
Join us for this special day as we kick off our new AAC year and celebrate our new Fellowship Hall. We are pleased to have with us again this year the wonderful musician Ernie Swanson. Ernie has been with us twice before and was loved by all. Chef Phil is serving Chicken Piccata with Creamy Caper Sauce. Please RSVP to Tricia Young at 954-598-9344 or TriciaY@firstpres.cc.

Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage – Spiritual Renewal Program

April 21 – April 24, Co-sponsored by First Presbyterian Church
Please stop by our table under the tent on Rally Day for more information.

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Main: 954-462-6200

To reach a staff member's direct line, dial 954-598-9, then the extension.
A full staff listing can be found on our website at www.firstpres.cc.

Rev. Dr. Russell H. Ritchel, Jr., Transitional Pastor
RussR@firstpres.cc (ext 310)

Rev. Dr. Christopher J. Benek,
Associate Pastor of Family Ministries and Mission
ChrisB@firstpres.cc (ext 314)

Rev. Dr. Richard B. Anderson, Parish Associate
RichardA@firstpres.cc (ext 330)

Children's Ministry

Cindy Vason, Director
CindyV@firstpres.cc (ext 341)

Happyland Day School

Corey Thiel, Principal
CoreyT@firstpres.cc (ext 351)

Youth Ministry

Nic Merchant, Director
NicM@firstpres.cc (ext 361)

Music Ministry

Robin L. McEachern,
Minister of Music
RobinM@firstpres.cc (ext 322)

Adult Education and Small Groups

Mona Petersen, Director
MonaP@firstpres.cc (ext 345)

Congregational Care and Senior Adult Ministry

Tricia Young, Director
TriciaY@firstpres.cc (ext 344)

Timothy Dobbins,
Pastoral Associate
TimD@firstpres.cc (ext 332)

Administration

Steve Wofford,
Church Administrator
SteveW@firstpres.cc (ext. 333)

JoEllen Glade, Director of Finance
JoEllenG@firstpres.cc (ext 335)

David Sestrich, Facilities Manager
DaveS@firstpres.cc (ext 348)

The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by:

--Leading people to Jesus Christ.

--Learning about our faith.

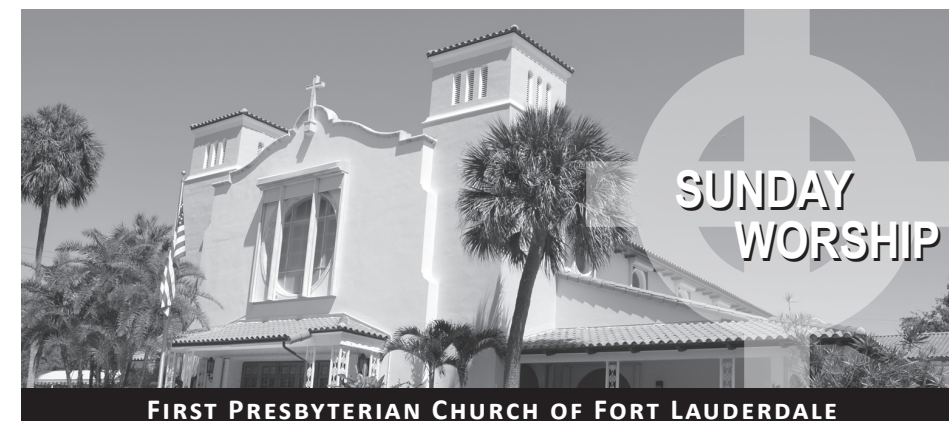
--Living a Christ-centered life.

--Loving our neighbor through ministries of service and compassion.



WHERE FAITH COMES ALIVE

401 SE 15th Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, FL • 33301
ph: 954-462-6200 • fax: 954-764-1081 • www.firstpres.cc



11 AM

September 6, 2015

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to worship! As a courtesy to others around you, please silence your cell phone. Nursery service is available in the Neumann Center for children aged 3 and younger. Ask an usher for assistance, if needed.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

PIANO

*CALL TO WORSHIP

REV. DR. RICHARD B. ANDERSON

Leader: We can trust God.

People: God is like the mountain: rock solid.

Leader: God loves all the people:

People: The poor, the disabled, the outcast, the stranger.

Leader: We can depend on God.

People: God feeds the hungry, heals the sick, and restores relationships.

Leader: Praise our Loving God.

People: The poor, the disabled, the outcast, the stranger.

Leader: Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

(based on Psalm 125)

***HYMN 469 (see insert)** "Morning Has Broken"

BUNESSAN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Gracious God, we come before You today knowing that we often fall short of Your call to love one another well. We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power. We ignore those around us who suffer injustice, poverty, and rejection. We tune out the cries of the poor and those on the edges of our communities. Help us to see Your great generosity, hear Your word of mercy, and feel Your great love for all who need Your redemptive grace. Strengthen us to reach out in service to those who are in need. Make us aware of those outside our own communities, that we may see them as Your precious children and serve them in humility and joy. May we continue to grow in grace as we learn how to serve You in the name of the great Servant, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

(inspired by Proverbs 22; James 2:1-17)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** “Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

***ANTHEM** “You Are Mine” SOFIA CARO & ALANNA QUITON,
— David Haas *sopranos*

***RESPONSIVE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Leader: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: We believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the
third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven; He is
seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come
to judge the living and the dead.**

Leader: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER CONCERNS TIMOTHY B. DOBBINS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy
kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our debts, as we forgive
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Online giving is available by going to www.firstpres.cc, clicking the tab labeled
GIVE, and following the prompts.*

OFFERTORY “In This Very Room” SOFIA CARO & ALANNA QUITON,
— Ron and Carol Harris *sopranos*

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 17: 14-21 N.T. PAGE 18

MESSAGE

NICHOLAS B. MERCHANT
“How long shall I stay with you?”

***HYMN 288** (*see insert*) “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” ELLACOMBE

***BENEDICTION**

WELCOME GUESTS!

- Thank you for joining us in worship in our newly renovated Fellowship Hall while our Sanctuary is presently undergoing renovation. A color and fabric sample display board is in the Neumann Center entryway for those who would like to see what has been selected. Please join us for a time of fellowship after worship!
- First Presbyterian is also the home of Happyland Day School, a quality preschool for over sixty years. For more info, call 954-463-6051.

THE CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO:

Mary-Alice Denny and family on the death of her niece, Lora Dorothy Shogi, on August 28, 2015. A celebration of Lora’s life was held on September 3 at The Little Chapel on the Boardwalk Presbyterian Church in Wrightsville Beach, NC, and

Michelle, Martyn and Chloe Walker, and family on the death of brother-in-law and uncle, Nick Slater, in England, and

Claudette and Richard Fraser (Custodian) and family on the death of Claudette’s mother, Lillian Gilbert, on August 28, in Georgetown, Guyana. A celebration of Lillian’s life was held on September 2, 2015 in Guyana.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK:

Phillip Paul Garofalo— Westside Regional Medical Center

TODAY’S FLOWERS are given by Sally Wheat in honor of Leroy Wheat’s birthday.

WORSHIP FLOWERS Please contact Emily Furdock at 954-462-6200 or EmilyF@firstpres.cc. Available dates: September 27, October 11 and 27.

THE PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY enables you to let people know that you have just prayed for them. Please call Tricia Young at 954-598-9344, if you, or someone you know, could use this means of caring support.

This week, please pray for:

Ted Stephany — call pager number: 954-823-0115

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IN NEED OF PRAYER?

The prayer ministry team would like to pray with you. At the end of the service, come to the front of Fellowship Hall, and you will find a team member ready to pray with you. Prayer requests may be noted on the Connect Card inserted in your bulletin, then place it in the offering plate, and your prayer request will be added to our weekly Prayer Chain.

ALL ARE INVITED TO A PRAYER GROUP to pray for our church, pastors, staff and ministries. The prayer group that typically meets at 10:30 am in the Bininger room before the 11am service will be held in Chapel-in-the-Sky, located on the third floor of the Neumann Center.

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Next Sunday, September 13 • Food and Fun for our Fall Kickoff!

We will kick off our Fall programs and celebrate our newly renovated Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Ministry tables will be available to help you discover learning and serving opportunities for this Fall. During the 9:30 worship service, children will have an opportunity to meet their Sunday school teachers. Immediately following, there will be special music, light brunch, and children’s activities such as crafts, a balloon artist, and even a petting zoo. So please join us for this special day and find out where you can get plugged in at First Pres!

Kirk Singer Rally Day Rehearsal TODAY after 11am service

Regular Chapel Singer and Kirk Singer rehearsals will begin September 13. Kirk Singer rehearsal (for grades 9-12) is 5 - 6 pm and Chapel Singer rehearsal (grades 6-8) is 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the Choir Room.

All middle school and high school students are welcome to attend!

Tea and Table Talk: Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 2 pm, Study and Renewal Center

Women of all ages are invited to come and enjoy an afternoon of companionship, A FUN TEA PARTY, and discussions of many varied subjects, holidays, and memories. For more information: Contact Petey Buchholz at 954-566-1744.

Join us this Fall... Christian Women Connect!

Women’s Ministry Welcome Back Social
Thursday, September 10 at 10 am in the Study and Renewal Center
Information on our fall programming and events will be introduced. Light lunch and refreshments will be served. RSVP to Laura Ziegler - 954.598.9312 / LauraZ@firstpres.cc. (In support of our Women in Distress mission, clean out your closet and bring a bag to donate.)

Many Hands (Really DO) Make Light Work!

All are invited to join us for fun fellowship as we do a **Reverse Hymnal Haul** in our newly renovated Sanctuary!

- When? Thursday, September 10 beginning at 8:30 am!
Continental breakfast will be provided to all volunteers!
- What time? Beginning at 8:30 am until completion
- Where? The Sanctuary
- Tasks? Re-stocking the pew racks with pens, pew envelopes, etc.
AND unpacking the Hymnals and pew Bibles and putting them back into the pews!

Sign up on your Connect Card or contact Barb Yatrousis at BarbaraY@firstpres.cc to confirm your attendance!!

The Prayer Shawl Committee

Meets next Monday, September 14 (the second Monday), from 9:30 am to 11:30 am, in the Study and Renewal Center. Please come and join us, even if you don’t know how to knit. We can teach you. Please let Tricia know if you know of someone who would like a prayer shawl. 954-598-9344.

Blood Drive on Sunday, Sept. 20, 8 am — 1 pm, in St. Andrew’s Room