

# PULSE

*The heartbeat of  
Flora Presbyterian Church*

**MAY 2015**



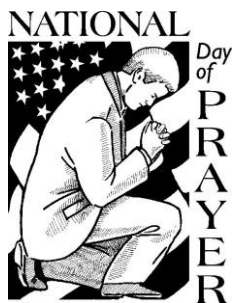
MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>  
at 6PM



MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>



*Mother's Day*  
May 10<sup>th</sup>



MAY 7<sup>th</sup>



**Memorial**  
DAY

MAY 25<sup>th</sup>



MAY 24<sup>th</sup>  
Communion



## Pastor's Page



## *“A Hopeful Future”*

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

**Jeremiah 29: 11**

We have come a long way together as transitional pastor and congregation in the last year, and doesn't it feel good to have accomplished so much! Our Gatherings on the Past, Present, and Future have been successfully completed, and the Mission Study Report that includes the results of all three events will be ready soon to send on to Presbytery for approval.

God is good! God is good all the time!

Here is a brief overview of the next steps in the process of calling a new pastor:

- Mission Study Report is sent to Presbytery for approval
- Congregation elects the Pastoral Search Committee
- Search Committee writes the position description
- Commission on Ministry approves it and puts it online
- Search Committee starts receiving applications from pastors
- Search Committee reads, sorts, discusses the applications
- Initial contacts are made with candidates
- Telephone interviews through Skype are arranged
- Follow-up in person interviews of a few candidates, with preaching at a neutral pulpit church are arranged
- References are checked by Presbytery and by the Search Committee
- Candidate chosen by the committee is offered the call
- Salary and benefits are negotiated and agreed upon, with Session input
- Candidate preaches in this church and the congregation votes upon the call
- Pastor moves to this community and is installed by the Presbytery at a worship service in this church

The length of time that it takes to find the pastor that God has chosen for you cannot be predicted. It could take anywhere from six months to eighteen months or two years. It is important that this discernment process be given the time that is needed to find your new pastor.

There are many more eligible pastors looking for calls than there are churches with openings right now, so the Search Committee will need to screen many Personal Information Forms from pastors.

During this time, it is important to respect the confidentiality of the committee and to pray for them as they do this vital work for the future of the congregation. They will not be able to share any information about specific pastors who have applied, either with the congregation or with their spouses at home. This protects the pastors who have applied and our congregation, as well. When you elect the members of the Search Committee, you grant them the task of discernment on behalf of the congregation, trusting in their integrity.

Elder Mike Munson of the Deer Creek Presbyterian Church is our congregation's Transitional Care Consultant, which means that he will meet with and advise the Search Committee as often as he can. Mike was the moderator of the Search Committee that recently called the new pastor at Deer

Creek, so he has lots of experience to be able to advise and guide the work of our Search Committee. Once the position description has been written, I will step back and Mike will advise the Search Committee.

Remember that God is with us in the risen Christ, and wants the best for us, as the prophet Jeremiah told the exiled Israelites so many centuries ago. We are the people of God, whom God provides for lovingly and reliably. So let us move into a season of prayer that in all things God's will may prevail.

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you all, now and always...




*Pastor Mary Ann Banning*

**Choir Practice 9:30; Worship 10:15; Sunday School as announced**

# Flora Presbyterian Church

May 2015

**B=Birthday N=Nursery SR=Scripture Readers U=Ushers**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 B=Martha Clark	2
3 Session Mtg, 6PM B=Marge Scholl N= Laurie Brower SR=Barbara Wilkinson SR=Patsy McCammack U=Marty & Julie Catron	4 B=Peter Bishop  7:00 PM Caregiver Support Group – Libby's home	5 B=Gary Scholl	6	7   National Day of Prayer	8	9 B=Bob Brown
10 Mother's Day N= Laurie Brower SR=Mary Ann Banning SR=Marshall McCammack U=Ed & Donna Sholty	11	12	13	14   ASCENSION OF THE LORD	15	16
17 N= Laurie Brower SR=Terry Langston SR=Martha Clark U= Ed & Donna Sholty	18	19 All day Presbytery Mtg – Rev. Mary Ann 7:00 PM Mary Martha Circle – Libby is hostess	20	21	22	23
24 Communion Day of Pentecost N=Laurie Brower SR=Kevin Clark SR=Joe Mayfield U=Kent & Kathy King	25   REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28 B=David Kratz	29	30
31 N= Laurie Brower SR=Laraine MacLauchlan SR=Gerry Hollis U=Kent & Kathy King						

## Christian Education

by Barb Mayfield

### **Mid-Week Adult Summer Study**

Beginning in May we will be starting a mid-week adult study on Wednesday evenings through the summer months. Be watching the bulletin for dates and details.



### **Oasis ~**

**Thank you for all the support!!**

Highlights of this year include our annual outdoor carnival kick-off, hay ride at the Cutler church, Christmas party, bowling, movie nights, and our big banquet on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year successful.

Our 1st Oasis banquet was a huge success. The dining room was filled with 100 children and their guests. The leaders did a great job serving. The magician gave a fabulous show with a gospel message. We even signed up nearly 40 children for VBS! Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible. Check out our church Facebook page for Oasis videos and pictures.

### **Geneva Center Camp Scholarship**

We are providing a Geneva Center Campership to Teaha Miller. If you are interested in contributing to the cost of sending her to camp (\$390 total, she paid \$25), designate your gift in the memo line of your check

### **Vacation Bible School – Save the date!**

**June 28-July 2**

“Aslan is On the Move” is the theme, based on CS Lewis’ “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.” We will be seeking help with props, costumes, food, and crafts. Be watching the bulletin for more information.



## May Library Corner

by Laraine MacLauchlan



If you have a favorite book, please let me know. I would love to read it and review it. Happy reading!

### Presbyterian Women

by Jane Bishop

The Mary Martha Circle will meet May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the Fellowship Room. The Hostess will be Libby Sparks; Year Book of Prayer, Jane Kearns; Horizons, Donna Sholty; and Bible Study, Lola Snavelly. All women are welcomed.



The Birthday Offering will be received May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two grants have been made, one in Columbia, South America, and the other in Memphis, TN.

Both programs will serve women and children who have been abused or need to find a new life after prostitution, addiction, or trafficking.

### Thrift Shop Schedule for May

Thurs. April 30.....	Jane Bishop .....	Sort & Mark
Sat. May 9.....	????.....	Cashier
Sat. May 16.....	Jane Bishop .....	Tags
Sat. May 23.....	???? .....	Sacker

### Worship Committee

by Terry Langston

Cutler Presbyterian Church held a Maundy Thursday service on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our congregation was invited and eleven members participated.

On Easter Sunday, thirty-six were served communion. Our next communion date is May 24<sup>th</sup> and will be done by intinction.



Thank you to everyone that donated to the "Flower Fund" for Easter.

A new order of worship music was given a trial run on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The music was provided by playing CD's and not with the piano or organ. There were a few little snags along the way, but

it was still a worship filled service. As the summer months are fast approaching, the session has been in discussion about different alternatives for offering relief to Libby and Jane from playing every Sunday. If anyone reading this article plays the piano or organ and would like to play, please talk to one of your session members.

Reminder, after Easter, if the piano and organ in the basement dining room have not found a new home, I will be contacting a business about donating them. If these were donated by your family and you would be interested in taking them, please contact me.

**Clerk of Session**

*by Laurie Brower*

Next meeting will be at 6PM on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, at the church.

**Congregational Life**

*by Kevin Clark*



Men will be cooking breakfast for Mother's Day. Ladies, breakfast begins at 9AM. Please join us!

**Stewardship/Mission**

*by Joe Mayfield*

"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you." 2 Corinthians 13:11

I thought this greeting from Paul was something for us to think about and strive for in the coming months. What can be better for each of us than the love and peace of God. That peace does not come from the world but from God, so to find it we must not think like the worldly, but like Christ. I know it is hard, and it is not made any easier in this messed up and scary world. I am urging myself and am asking each of you as part of your "mission" to do what this verse says and see what happens. God has always been true to his word.

March was an encouraging month for revenue, with total receipts of \$9,248, well above our previous two month average of \$6,388. Well done! Expenses for the 3 month period Jan-March are slightly above budget mainly because of above normal fuel costs due to the cold winter and spring.

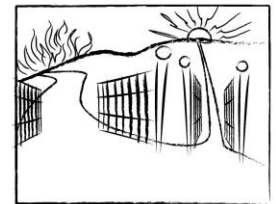
Feel free to ask questions anytime, if I don't have the answer, I will look it up for you.

Sincerely and in Christ's love,  
Joe Mayfield, Chairman of the Stewardship and Missions Committee

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**At the starting gate**

“There’s a good reason they call these ceremonies ‘commencement exercises,’” Utah Senator Orrin Hatch once said.



“Graduation is not the end; it’s the beginning.” The same is true of baptism. Both events are often approached as an end point reached with relief: “Well, at least that’s done!” With the degree — or salvation — in hand, some people feel no further need for education — or spiritual growth.

Just remember: You’re at the starting gate, not the finish line. Well-wishers encourage new grads, “Don’t stop now; you’re on a roll. Even greater things are ahead!” And Hebrews 12:1 (NRSV) urges the baptized, “Run with perseverance the race that is set before [you].” While a diploma bears the seal of the graduate’s



**Graduation**

school, Christians *themselves* are sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30) and the cross of Christ. To take full advantage of each, we must continue learning and growing.

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This Mother’s Day we thank God for the special women in our lives while remembering Jesus’ declaration: “Anyone who does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother” (Mark 3:35, NLT).



*Spring has sprung!*

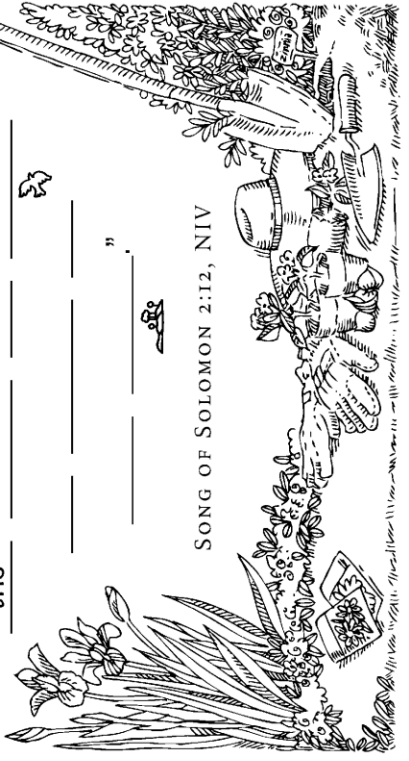
God created all the seasons, and each brings unique visuals that remind us of him.

*Directions: Unscramble each phrase to complete Song of Solomon 2:12, NIV. Use the pictures as hints.*

earth on appear the Flowers

" \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ singing come the of has season  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ heard the land our in is of cooing doves  
 the \_\_\_\_\_



SONG OF SOLOMON 2:12, NIV

Answers: "Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land."

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