

# Seminole Pres.

A Monthly Publication of Seminole Presbyterian Church

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FEBRUARY 2004

## Chronicles of a Bushy-tailed Presbyterian

As many of you may (or may not) know, Seminole has been host to a rather interesting creature...a squirrel. A few days ago, we located this letter from the squirrel and have reprinted it below:

Dear Seminole Family,

My mama always told me that the church folk at Seminole were some of the stuffiest and most "holier than thou" fold she ever did encounter. She says all they are ever interested in is passing the collection plate 'till you done put in your last acorn. Not knowin' any better, I was inclined to agree. But after hanging out with you fine folk these past few weeks, I've just 'bout changed my inclination.

You see, it all started with your "open door" policy; so being of an enterprising nature, I took advantage of it. I was ac-

cepted just as I was...bushy tail and all (just like Jesus accepts you). Nobody made a stink about me being here, so I didn't sees the harm in staying on a while. Then somehow, someone knew I was about and showed me tremendous hospitality... I mean you really didn't have to leave the *whole* pantry for me to go through! There is some fine nourishment to be had here at Seminole.

Later in my stay, I got briefly acquainted with members of your pulpit committee. They seemed rather excited to see me, so I decided to stay a spell longer and check out the worship service. Come Sunday, the worship was absolutely delightful...I even got an honorable mention from the pastor, being a first time visitor and all! Everyone took notice that I was there and made me feel right at home. One by one they brought their friends to point me out.

And not one of them made me feel that I had to put something in the offering plate!

So now I don't rightly know what to do. All my life I just minded my own business and worked hard to make my livin'. But now I've found a whole new world that I didn't know about. Since accepting your gracious invitation to join you, I've experienced fellowship, nourishment, worship, and good fun! I reckon I could keep it all to myself and enjoy things the way they are. Yet when I was in your worship service, I recollect your pastor saying something that's got me doing some more figurin'. Yep, I reckon if I ever find my way out of this place, I am gonna tell all my bushy-tailed friends that they've just GOT to come!

THE SQUIRREL

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## Seminole Pres.

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Church

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From Pastor Bob's  
Desk  
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Chronicles of a Bushy-  
tailed Presbyterian  
Jackie Toenes

### DEADLINE

The deadline for the  
March 2004 edition is  
Sunday, February  
15th. Please send  
anything you would  
like to include in the  
newsletter to:  
btoenes@seminolepca  
.org on or before that  
date.

## From Pastor Bob's Desk

Eph. 2:11-13

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;"

Being a Full time minister has never been more full time. One of the things God has been teaching me these past months is that there is far more ministry to be done than I can possibly do.

That is why I find special conviction in this passage. I am certainly blessed in every way through the officers and members of SPC. A number of you are asking me how I am doing with such a difficult load. My answer has been to say that by God's grace, I'm holding up and feeling the support of so many of you.

However, I am "running out of Bob." What that means is that I have not allowed God's people to pick up the balance of responsibilities before me. This I confess and want to remedy by "spreading the load" to more of those who have expressed a desire to see Seminole Presbyterian be as effective a presence for Christ that we can be.

One of the ways you can be a part of the expanding ministries of Seminole Presbyterian is to consider what part you can play in the work God has called you to at our Church. It just so happens that there is a way to answer the question, "How Can I Help?"

Christian Helplines Inc., a nationally endorsed\* counseling and ministry training organization, is going to be leading a "How Can I Help?" Training Seminar at

Seminole Presbyterian Church on Saturday February 21. Although I'd love to see everyone participate, attendance is going to have to be restricted to those who have expressed an interest in practical training in Christian Crisis Counseling. Most of our Church's Session and Diaconate as well as Church Staff are planning to attend.

After this training Seminole Presbyterian will facilitate this training for all interested members so

that we will be better equipped to meet the growing need for lay ministry. Perhaps you have been asking our Lord how you could be better used to share the love of Christ. This specialized training will be available through a 7 Week Course leading to a Certificate in Christian Crisis Counseling from Dr. "Skip" Hunt, PhD.

Not only will we have the privilege of hosting this training but we will be opening this up to the Tampa Bay Area.

*(Continued on page 3)*



# From Pastor Bob's Desk (Cont.)

*(Continued from page 2)*

This means that Christians from all over Tampa Bay will be coming to get this very same training opportunity. Imagine the possibilities! Christians seeking to serve our Lord coming to Seminole Presbyterian Church in order to learn how to provide real spiritual ministries!

So, what can you do now? PRAY! Ask God to reveal to you how you can support this ministry. Ask that this training will result in SOULS SAVED. Ask that God will use this training as an effective means to bring love, healing and reconciliation to our own! God is continuing His work of renewal at SPC. You can either hear about it or be a part of it. My sincere prayer is that you

will be so stirred by God's moving that you will have another reason to say, "you have GOT to come to my Church!"

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\* Endorsed by James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries, Chuck Swindoll, TV, Radio and many more.



## Background on Dr. Skip Hunt

Go to <http://www.christianhelplines.com/> for more information

For over two decades, Dr. Hunt has worked in the field of crisis counseling, ministry development and lay training.

As the Founder and National President of **Christian Helplines, Inc. (CHI)**, Dr. Hunt helps Christian churches, parachurch ministries, and individuals across the nation to organize and operate Christian lay ministries.

Dr. Hunt works extensively with churches, helping them to establish or enhance their personal care ministry through the development of: peer support ministry, support groups, recovery groups, home fellowship groups, telephone prayer lines, Care Ring ministry,

hospital and home visitation.

Dr. Hunt has a Masters Degree in Christian Counseling and a Ph.D. in Christian Psychology from Faith Theological Seminary. He is the author and producer of the How Can I Help? training system which has equipped over 35,000 Christians for personal lay ministry.

Dr. Hunt has also authored 30 E-books in the Guidelines For Helping People series, providing general information, Scripture references, Biblical counseling guidelines, and referral information on the 30 most prevalent problems people in our society are struggling with today.



December 2003

Total Offerings  
\$34,881

Total Expenses  
\$33,121

Net Change In  
General Fund  
\$1,760

Final - 2003

Total Offerings  
\$377,001

Total Expenses  
\$388,055

Net Change In  
General Fund  
(\$11,054)

The figures reflected here do not consider designated funds.

Note: Year end financial statements for 2003 should be available upon request after January 31 2004





## February Birthdays

- 1 Josh Hawes
- 2 Mildred Allen
- 3 Matthew Storey
- 5 Celeste Fretto
- 7 Jackie Toenes
- 7 Daniel Nordgren
- 11 Liz Blue
- 12 Lois Callen
- 13 Alex Johnson
- 14 Donald Loose
- 15 Jennifer Cole
- 16 David Gardner
- 19 Thea De La Rosa
- 22 Chip Johnson
- 22 Sarah Quick
- 24 John Beckel
- 24 Kylie VanderPloeg
- 25 David Sutherland

Come celebrate these birthdays on February 25th at our Family Birthday Celebration.

# A Report from the Pulpit Search Committee

Greetings from the Pulpit Search Committee!

This past month we resumed our regular meetings after taking a few weeks off for the Christmas holidays. We last reported that we had identified three prospects whom we wanted to investigate further. Unfortunately, our search continues as these men are no longer prospects at this time.

Also, over the past month we have had a change in our makeup. Due to Ron Quick's resignation from the committee, the Session has selected Larry Dickey to fill his seat on the committee bringing our number back to seven members. We welcome Larry onto the committee, and we ask that you pray for him just as you have been praying for the rest of us all along.

We cannot stress enough how important it is for the congregation to support us with your prayers. First, we need you to pray for our health and safety. We cannot get any work done if we are unable to meet. Therefore, we ask that you pray that God will keep us and our families healthy and free from distractions that would keep us from coming together to work on our task.

Secondly, we ask that you pray for God to give us discernment so that we can properly evaluate prospects as they are brought before us. We need the Holy Spirit to enable us not to be led astray by our prejudices and personal biases.

It is imperative that we open our minds and our hearts to listen to God speak. His chosen man may not look anything like what we envision right now.

Thirdly, please pray that God will reveal His call to His chosen man. Pray that this man will hear God's voice and act accordingly.

Finally, please pray that we will be the right church. As Pastor Bob has reminded us over and over, it is not just important to find the right man to be our next pastor. We must be the right church. That means that we must be a church that means business with God. We must be humble and ever seeking His face. Only when we are prepared to leave our comfort zones will we see God do mighty things among us. Growth can be painful. But as they say, "No pain, no gain!" Pray that God would open the hearts of each one of us to be ready to embrace our new pastor and follow his lead as he takes this church into the glorious days ahead.

**"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it..." Col. 4:2**

If you haven't been praying for us as you ought, would you commit to praying now? Once again our members are Matt Storey, Jake Beckel, Bryan Toenes, Kit Rackham, Sally Quick, Conchita Tucker, and Larry Dickey. We meet every Thursday at 5:30 pm in the church library. Even though you cannot attend the meetings in person, please be in attendance with us before the throne of grace!



# Covenant Connections

## Tampa Bay PCA Joint Worship Service

In case you haven't noticed, God has given us an extra day in 2004 that we haven't had for four years. So how can we use this extra day to the glory of God? By joining together with our sister churches and having one big worship service!

Seminole will be hosting a combined worship service on Sunday, February 29th at 6 pm. We will be joined by members from Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in South Tampa, Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church in New Tampa, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Brandon, and a few other PCA churches in the Tampa Bay area.

Preaching that evening will be Pastor Dave Harding from St. Petersburg Presbyterian Church, a new church plant that meets in downtown St. Petersburg. Child care will be provided that evening. We also need everyone to bring refreshments for all of us to enjoy as we fellowship after the service. An offering will be taken that evening as well. If you are available to help usher, please see Tony Yoder.

Don't miss this special opportunity to join together for worship as the larger body of Christ. We often confess that we believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic church. But it isn't very often that we get to practice that belief even by joining with churches in our own denomination. Plan to attend this service and join together with our extended family in praising our great God and Savior!

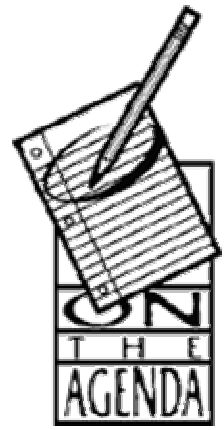
## Officer Nominations

\*\*\*Deadline—Feb. 1st\*\*\*

This is a reminder that Sunday, February 1st is the deadline to nominate men in the congregation to serve as ruling elders or deacons for the 2004-07 term beginning this July.

The nomination forms are in the foyer and in the narthex. Along with the nomination form is the list of qualifications to serve as an officer at SPC. The church has a few requirements in addition to the biblical requirements for the offices in general.

Please be thinking of qualified men to nominate for office. In addition to men who have never served as an officer, you may also nominate any of the current officers whose terms are over at the end of June. Selecting officers is one of the duties of a Presbyterian congregation. These men make decisions that will impact the entire church for some time to come. Please pray for God to touch the men He is selecting for office that they will hear his call and answer.



### Session Meeting

Tues.—February 3rd

### Deacon Meeting

Thurs.—February  
26th

## A Visit From Our Missionaries

Jim and Pam McKee from World Harvest Mission will be at Seminole on Sunday, February 8th. Jim will be speaking in Sunday School and preaching in the morning worship service.

The McKees receive direct support from our church's missions/outreach budget. Don't miss this opportunity to hear the things that God is doing through their ministry. Make plans to be here at 9:30 as the McKees share with us.



# Operation Carelift—Russia

Lou & Sandra Rocha

This month's featured missionaries are Lou & Sandra Rocha. By the time you read this, the Rochas will be in Moscow, leading a team to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the orphans and the needy.

Operation Carelift is a Josh McDowell Ministry that brings hope to the hopeless through both word and deed. As we have been learning in our Sunday school class on mercy ministry, when we share the Gospel we should address the whole individual. We should share our joy in Jesus Christ to build them up spiritually, but also provide for their physical needs. This principle is at the core of Operation Carelift. This ministry is designed to serve local churches already established in Russia by opening doors through humanitarian aid to go out and spread the Gospel. An Operation Carelift team brings medicine, food and clothing to orphanages, hospitals, and shelters.

Lou and Sandra Rocha need our help as they engage in spiritual warfare to reach the lost in the name of Christ. We need to lift them up in prayer! Below is a brief itinerary for their adventure along with specific prayer requests.

**Saturday, Jan 24 – Travel Day**

**Sunday, Jan. 25 – Arrive in Moscow**

**Monday, Jan. 26 – Orientation Day**

- For the Operation Carelift staff as they instruct and encourage participants for the ministry ahead.
- That the bus groups will be drawn together in unity and love as they all share the same desire and heart to proclaim the message of salvation to those who are in the darkness.

**Tuesday, Jan 27 – Travel to Outlying Cities of St. Petersburg, Kineshma, and Ryzan**

- For good weather, safety and no mechanical problems for the buses departing for their outlying cities.
- For a good time of fellowship and preparation for ministry days during the bus trip.
- For a good first ministry day for the one bus remaining in Moscow.

**Wednesday, Jan. 28 – Saturday, Jan. 31, Monday, Feb. 2 – Wednesday, Feb. 4: Ministry days at orphanages, hospitals, shelters, prisons, and societies**

- For safety, health and protection for all participants and staff and their families back home.
- To touch the hearts of the children, adults, and staff at the various sites through sharing our lives and the gospel to bring them to a personal relationship with God.
- For our lives to be a testimony of God's love, grace and mercy to all we encounter – bus drivers, bus guides, interpreters, hotel and

restaurant staff as well as people on the street

- For God to send us "divine" appointments to minister to those who are struggling and have no hope.
- That the humanitarian aid that we deliver will meet their physical needs in a way that shows God's love for them, and for other opportunities to fulfill any special needs at the sites we visit.
- Not to trust in our own strength, previous successes or past experiences, but to rely solely on the Holy Spirit in all situations.
- To be vessels of compassion and for humility, transparency and sensitivity in all situations.

**Sunday, Feb. 1 – Worship with local churches**

- That our presence will strengthen and encourage the local church pastor and believers.
- That Operation Carelift will give the churches credibility to continue outreaches at the sites after we leave.

**Thursday, Feb. 4 – Break out city buses travel back to Moscow**

- For safe travel for the returning buses and a good day of ministry for the Moscow bus.

**Friday, Feb. 6 – Day of shopping and sightseeing**

- To be sensitive to opportunities to share Christ in the marketplace.

**Saturday, Feb. 7 – Travel back to the USA**



## "Puns For Fun"



St. Valentine's  
Day

February 14th

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails...And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

I Corinthians 13:4-8a; 13

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

A. Ruthless.

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?

A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

A. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

A. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.

Q. Who is the greatest baby sitter mentioned in the Bible?

A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

Q. Which Bible character had no parents?

A. Joshua, son of Nun.

Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A. Because Noah was standing on the deck. (Groannnnn...)



## Children's Corner

### Help Wanted!

I would like to take the opportunity to announce that there is an immediate opening for someone or someones to serve as our church librarian. Due to my schedule, I am unable to continue in this role. I enjoyed the opportunity to reopen the library and rebuild the church's holdings. But I believe that now is a good time to turn over the reins to someone else.

This position is not very demanding. There are basic tasks such as shelving books and videos and tracking what is in circulation. There is also the need to promote the library to ensure that it functions as intended, which is to support the church's education program.

This job is ideal for someone who is looking to become more active in the church. If you like to learn and enjoy helping others, nothing would delight me more than to introduce you to this ministry. I look forward to hearing from you!

Bryan Toenes

If you've ever wondered where the children go as they follow the banner out of the worship service every Sunday in Pied Piper-like fashion, they're headed to a time of worship and instruction designed specifically for them. The children, ranging in ages from four to six, walk down the hall of the education wing and around the corner to room 116, where Children's Worship occurs.

Since preschool children thrive on consistency, the children's worship leaders try to follow the same routine every week. The session often begins with greetings and the taking of attendance. Then the leaders sing with the children and try to give them an opportunity to expend a little of their energy with appropriate hand motions or marching during the song.

After a song or two, the leaders move to the highlight of the morning, the Bible story. A "story call" or group of repeated phrases reminds the children that they are moving into a special part of their worship time. The children have been learning to pick a carpet square and sit on it, quietly waiting for the story. Part of this quarter's story call involves the leaders and children saying together, "A story from God, just for us." The leaders use visual aids such as pictures, posters, flannel graph pieces, and puppets to help make the Bible stories come alive for the children. A few weeks ago, for example, Chip Johnson taught the story of Jesus' giving sight to the blind man and after the story, he put a blindfold on some of the children so they could experience what it would

be like to be blind.

The third part of the morning involves the children's response to the Bible story. A favorite way to respond is to act out scenes from the story. After a recent lesson on Jesus' raising the widow's son to life from Luke 7, the children took turns being the widow, the child, Jesus, and His disciples. Because each child wanted to play every part, the group acted out the story many times, each time praising Jesus for bringing the boy back to life. Sometimes the story response might involve a craft or activity from the colorful take-home paper each child is given every week.

Snack time usually ends the Children's Worship session. The children say The Lord's Prayer before they eat every week. During the snack, the leader might read the morning's story out of a children's Bible, and the children enjoy hearing the story told using different words or illustrations. Often the leaders work on memory verses with their students, each memory verse being taught three or four weeks in a row. Before the teachers and children expect, the parents appear at the door and Children's Worship is over.

Our church is blessed to have Donna Waugh, Chip Johnson, and Steve and Laura Strickland, who teach once every four or five weeks. They miss Pastor Bob's sermons when they teach, though. So speak with Cindy or Jane if you would like to take a turn at this exciting way to serve God at Seminole.



# Shout Out

The Monthly Youth Section of the *Seminole Pres.*



Little things. They always need to get done. Moms seem to notice them the most. Moms also seem to yell at you the most for them. But few people besides moms really notice little things. In reality, little things can make a big difference. Though he may not read this because he is off at Basic Training, Ethan Byrne did a little thing that was a huge help to the youth group. He would give anyone who needed a ride home a lift anytime they needed it. Giving someone a ride may not seem like a big deal to you, but how would you like to be the guy stuck at church while you wait? What a big thing Ethan did by giving little rides. This is a perfect picture of the body of Christ doing what it can to help itself out. This month let's all honor Ethan by being like him.

## Honeymooner's Corner

"Fellowship for Young Couples or Couples Young-at-Heart"

February 1—Super Bowl Party

Hosted by Nick and Brynn Tiscione

Call 621-9258 to RSVP and get directions

## SPC Adult Classes

Sunday School—9:30 AM

Ministries of Mercy  
Gospel of Mark  
Intro. to the Old Testament

Tuesday Morning—9:30 AM

Precept Study on Exodus

Wednesday Night—6:30 PM

Purpose Driven Life—Women  
Purpose Driven Life—Men (6:45 PM)  
Precept Study on Exodus

If you are not attending any of these classes, please consider making the commitment today to come and be strengthened in your faith.

## Dates To Remember

February 14th

A St. Valentine's Day small group that you don't want to miss

Start thinking now how you can help with this year's Easter Sunrise service

## Friendly People Needed

As many of you have noticed, the Welcome Center table has been reinstated in the narthex. The Hospitality Committee is asking for volunteers to serve at the Welcome Center from 10:30—11:00 on Sunday mornings. Currently, our volunteers serve once every 6 weeks. Please consider this worthwhile ministry. All you need is a smile! Contact Leisa Storey at 932-6223 if you would be interested in serving.



## Lent 2004

This February 25th is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent. Historically, the church has observed this time of the year before Easter as a time to reflect on our sinfulness and Christ's sacrifice that paid for our sins and saved us from the wrath of God.

Lent lasts for 40 days from Ash Wednesday until the Saturday before Easter (The six Sundays in Lent are not counted as part of the season because every Sunday is the Lord's Day, which is a celebration of Christ's resurrection and victory over sin). The number 40 in the Bible is usually used to designate a time of testing. For example, Nineveh was given 40 days to repent at Jonah's preaching, and Jesus was in the wilderness 40 days when He was tested by Satan.

Let us use these 40 days as our own test to reflect on our relationship with Christ and surrender to Him every area of our lives so that we may be all God wants us to be.

## Coming Events

### *The Passion of the Christ*

Ash Wednesday is the release date for one of this year's most anticipated films. *The Passion of the Christ*, directed by Mel Gibson, is the story of Christ's suffering, which began in the Garden of Gethsemane. The film presents a vivid portrayal of the events continuing through the crucifixion and ending with the empty tomb on that first Easter morning.

Gibson has given previews to select audiences of both religious leaders (James Dobson and Billy Graham) and secular celebrities (Paul Harvey). Nearly all have come away saying that this film made an incredible emotional impact on them.

The film is intended to be a re-enactment of the Lord's passion that is as accurate and realistic as possible. The dialogue is spoken in Aramaic, Hebrew, and Latin. English subtitles are provided so that the audience can understand what is being said. Also, the violence committed against the Lord is portrayed in as realistic a manner as possible, so graphic, in fact, that the movie has been given an R rating.

This article does not mean that SPC endorses the film. Rather this is an announcement notifying anyone interested in viewing the film of its release this month. Perhaps God will use this film as He has used others such as the Jesus film to present the basic Gospel story that Jesus Christ came to save sinners.

### SPC Family Campout



Let's go camping! Set aside March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> for our second SPC Family Campout at Hillsborough River State Park.

We will share at least one meal and have some games, singing, and worship time. Camping in a group is a great way to get to know each other better, so plan to join us for the weekend. Never been camping? The best way to get started is with a group of people who love it. Let us know if you need to borrow some equipment, and we will try to get you set up. If you can't make it for the whole weekend, please feel free to join us for the day on Saturday.

For more information, or if you can help in the planning, please call Donna and Brian Waugh at 909-0220.

### Ligonier Ministries Annual Conference

This year's Ligonier Ministries Annual Conference is rapidly approaching. The conference, A Portrait of God: The Abundance of His Perfection, is in Orlando from March 11-13.

The cost to register is \$129 per person before Feb. 15th. After that it will cost \$149 per person. Kids 17 and under are admitted for free.

If you plan to attend and have not yet registered, do it today!



# SPC Calendar February 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1  Holy Communion	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Guest Speaker Jim McKee	9	10	11	12	13	14  Valentine's Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 "How Can I Help?" Seminar
22	23	24	25  Birthday Celebration  Ash Wednesday	26	27	28
29 1st Sunday In Lent  Tampa Bay Area Worship Service—6 PM						



# Seminole Presbyterian Church

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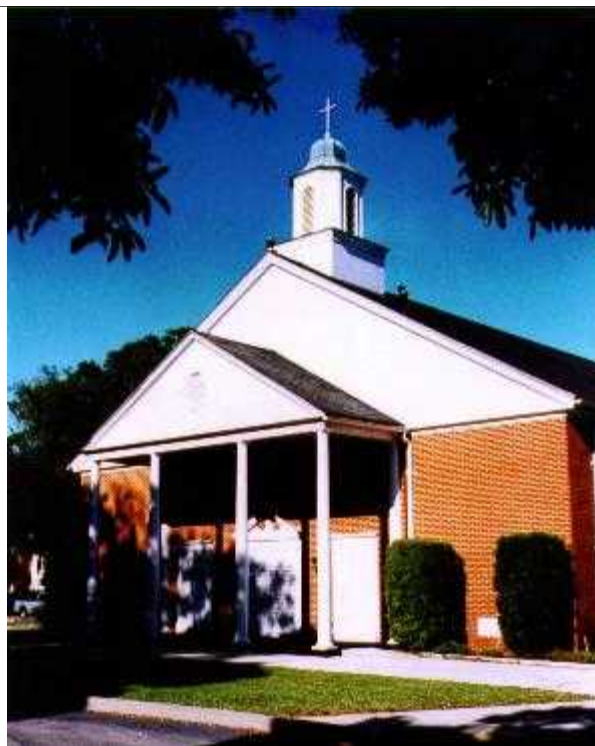
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A Congregation of the  
Presbyterian Church in America

<http://www.pcanet.org>

Faithful to the Scriptures,  
True to the Reformed Faith,  
And Obedient to the Great Commission  
of Jesus Christ



## CHURCH STAFF

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## OFFICERS

### SESSION

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