

Seminole Pres.

A Monthly Publication of Seminole Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2004

Every Member Called To Minister

Have you ever read the back of the weekly bulletin? Underneath the staff and officer contacts is a section that says: **CALLED TO MINISTER: EVERY MEMBER.** What does this mean? It means that every member of the body is called into some kind of Christian ministry. Pastors along with their supporting staff are here to equip the body to minister. But it is for each one of us to find where God has called us to serve and act upon it.

This past February 21st, thirteen members of SPC gave up a beautiful Saturday to attend a training seminar in crisis counseling conducted by Dr. Skip Hunt of Christian Helplines. Dr. Hunt lectured for about 6 hours on techniques for lay members to use in dealing with

hurting people facing a crisis situation.

At the conclusion of the session, Dr. Hunt asked for feedback from the group. Some participants said that the training taught them that we don't have to have solutions for every prob-

lem that people encounter. Listening is the main thing that people in a crisis need. Others said that the training challenged them to "get out of the boat" and be active in serving others. If we pray for God to give us opportunities to apply what we have learned, He will answer.



Above: Dr. Skip Hunt as he lectures to 13 members of SPC at the first *How Can I Help?* training session

For those who were not able to attend this Saturday class, SPC will host another class taught on Thursday nights from March 4th through April 15th. Details will be coming soon. This class not only gives SPC members the opportunity to be trained, but people from other churches may also have the chance to come and be trained as well.

Be praying and asking God how you can help others. This class may be just what you need.

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Seminole Pres.

Published Monthly by
Seminole Presbyterian
Church

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From Pastor Bob's
Desk
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"Rare Jewel of Chris-
tian Contentment"
Steve Strickland

Covenant Connections
Ralph Colbert



The deadline for the
April 2004 edition is
Sunday, March 21st.
Please send anything
you would like to in-
clude in the newslet-
ter to:
btoenes@seminolepca
.org on or before that
date.

From Pastor Bob's Desk

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:35-39

I am fully convinced that the biggest obstacle Seminole Presbyterian Church faces is failing to realize the power that assurance of salvation and victory in Christ has on her future. Knowing the outcome is everything. We know the ending. Satan knows his ending as well.

What an amazing transformation takes place when we turn from hoping in our own efforts to the victorious Lord! When I began to realize that my salvation was sealed forever in Heaven and that no one, not even myself could undo this amazing love I was set free to serve with the assurance of one who knows he is loved unconditionally.

Imagine going into battle knowing for certain that your side is certainly going to emerge victorious. That is exactly what God is telling us in this passage. Paul and his ministries had been largely written off by those he sought to reach first with the Gospel. He saw that in the spiritual conflict between this world and the Kingdom to come that there were going to be gains as well as losses.

Did this deter him? Not at all. He simply turned to the Gentiles and saw them turn in sincere repentance.

Conversions are going to happen. Sinners are going to come to Christ through you and among you. The victory is already accomplished. Our salvation was sealed forever in Heaven with his Lord and Savior. All that was left was an adversary bent on delaying the inevitable. Bent on undermining your hope.

I wish to convey to you the same confidence that Paul so wonderfully expressed in the text above.

Let us beware of regarding our obstacles as insurmountable. The obstacles are not our focus. Jesus Christ is the reason for our confidence. With our success guaranteed the obstacles before us are already overcome.

Rev. Robert Byrne, M. Div



A Word From The Diaconate



Saturday
March 20th

Church
Work Day

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 20th, the first day of spring. That will be our first Church Work Day of 2004. In preparation for the Easter holiday, we would like to freshen up our facilities. Also, we have a number of projects scheduled for this year that we would like to begin this month.

The Deacons are requesting your help in several areas:

Projects:

- ⇒ Finish painting some interior rooms
- ⇒ Paint the exterior doors to the sanctuary

Maintenance:

- ⇒ Weed the flowerbeds around the sanctuary and courtyard
- ⇒ Do some light cleaning in the sanctuary

Do any of these tasks interest you? If so, plan on coming out to serve your church and enjoy fun and fellowship while you work. We will begin about 9:00 am. Hope to see you there!



We would like to take this opportunity to update the church on the status of the church's financial obligation to The Cambridge School. As many of you already know, the lease agreement between The Cambridge School and Seminole Presbyterian Church obligates Seminole to reimburse the school for 1/6 of the custodial salaries incurred in the maintenance of the entire campus. This agreement was reached in 2001 when the school officially became independent of the church.

Due to our financial situation from mid 2002 to the present, we have been making our payments to the school, on average, about 90 days late. Thankfully, the school has been patient with us as we have been working to restructure our budget.

As part of our church's vision to re-establish good relations with the school, we would like to retire this debt as soon as possible and resume meeting our obligations in a timely manner. We are asking first for your prayers that God will enable us to quickly retire this debt in full. Secondly, we would like you to consider whether God would have you give above and beyond your regular tithe specifically toward retiring this debt. Finally, we ask that you regularly pray for the school as we share this campus to minister in the name of Jesus Christ.



January 2004

Total Offerings
\$28,561

Total Expenses
\$25,326

Net Change In
General Fund
\$3,235

The figures reflected here do not consider designated funds.

Debt To The Cambridge School

Approx. balance owed to The Cambridge School as of 1/31/04 was \$27,000. This is down from \$35,000 where it stood at the end of 2003.





March Birthdays

- 4 Bob Byrne
- 5 Jean Mathis
- 5 Asjia Sutherland
- 5 Conchita Tucker
- 6 Dan Ringhoff
- 6 Alina Sanchez
- 13 Marilyn Horst
- 13 Erica Campos
- 15 Ann Quillian
- 17 Virginia Dohle
- 18 Thomas McArthur
- 21 Donna Carrillo
- 22 Kit Rackham
- 25 Hazel Walden
- 27 Ralph Colbert
- 28 Bill Alboth
- 29 Daniel Fernandez

Come celebrate these birthdays on March 31st at our Family Birthday Celebration.

A Report from the Pulpit Search Committee

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

You probably recall that in our last report we asked you to commit to praying for us as we continue with our search for our next pastor. Many of you responded, and God answered those prayers! This past month we have seen many more prospects come to our attention. We are definitely seeing more viable prospects coming our way. God has also given us a peace in our hearts as we continue our search. He has blessed us with a unity of purpose and mind as we look to Him for wisdom and direction.

As Matt Storey recently reported to the congregation, we continue to get resumes and data forms sent to us. Each one gives us an opportunity to get a glimpse of men whom God has serving in other areas of His church. It is a blessing to see how God equips His saints to minister in the areas where He calls them.

We also know that God has equipped the man whom He has already chosen to be our next pastor. Often we wish that God would reveal everything to us in the instant that we want to know. But God seldom does that. In hindsight we always see that in waiting until the appointed time to reveal His will to us, God knew what He was doing even when we didn't. We know that the same will be true of this search process.

As we continue our search, we ask

again that you make prayer a top priority. If you have not already committed to praying for the search process, please do so now. Pray for each one of us on the committee. Pray for the man God has chosen that He will hear the call and respond. And pray for Seminole Presbyterian Church that she will walk worthy of the calling of Christ! Pray that our congregation will be prepared to receive our new pastor when God reveals him to us. Pray that God would have His way with Seminole, that we may glorify Him and enjoy Him forever!

Pray For Our Missionaries

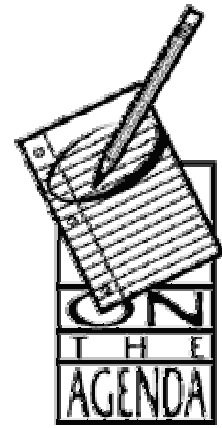
The Missions/Outreach Team requests your prayers for our missionaries. As many of you already know, we made a 25% cut across the board in monetary support to our missionaries for this calendar year in an effort to trim the church's operating budget. Now that the reductions in support have taken effect, our missionaries will need to find replacements for those funds.

As our financial support is reduced, let us see to it that our prayer support increases. We need to pray that God will provide for the financial needs of our missionaries. We must also pray for their safety, health, and spiritual well being as they labor for the Gospel's sake. If you would like to commit to praying for specific needs, please see anyone on the Missions/Outreach Team and they will direct you accordingly.



Covenant Connections

Church Beast Captured



Session Meeting

Tues.—March 2nd

Deacon Meeting

Thurs.—March 25th

Officer Nominations

Please remember to pray for the men who have been nominated as candidates for church office beginning in July 2004. After being examined and approved by the Session, they will be presented to the congregation to be elected in a special called congregational meeting. Pray for them as they prepare to begin training for their respective offices.



After a Friday night of partying and revelry, the church beast was found Saturday morning in a cage, *behind bars*, at last. Yes, this is the pesky one that has defied all. He was not scared off by loud organ music, or even hearing Pastor Bob's full sermon, or being chased down halls by screaming kids,

woeful women, and angry men. He outsmarted the sticky pad traps but couldn't resist the cheese, cracker, and peanut butter inside the smart trap behind the kitchen stove. This is a trap "with a heart." It doesn't harm the occupant, just retains it.



As he whizzed by, it sounded as though he was singing, "Free at last, free at last."

The above story is from Sat. Jan. 24th, 2004 by Ralph Colbert.



Vander Ploeg News—Congo Edition

As many of you may already know, Don Vander Ploeg recently returned from a successful trip to Congo (in Africa for those also educated in the Florida public school system). Don was in Congo for four weeks assisting literacy teams with equipment and bicycle repair and teaching nationals to make inexpensive reading glasses.

This month I have featured an update on how Don's trip went and how God is working through the Vander Ploeg family to bring the Gospel to the nations! If after reading this you would like more information on the ministry of Wycliffe Bible Translators or JAARS you can visit them on the World Wide Web at www.wycliffe.org and www.jaars.org. Or better yet, if you would like to send an encouraging letter to the Vander Ploeg's you can email them at don_vander_ploeg@sil.org.

Rodney (Ballard) and I had an uneventful trip over to the Congo. There was concern that the Muslim holiday 'Id' would affect our travel from Cameroon to Congo. But God was pleased to allow us to enter Congo on time. All the tools and parts went through customs without a problem. This all happened because of your prayer support for us! On the home front, Judy and the kids also had an uneventful month for which we were very thankful. (Another answer to prayer) A special treat was being able to phone home at least once, if not, twice a week. It was amazing that a cell phone tower had been put up in Gemena.

First thing-hanging the mosquito net. Malaria, dengue fever, and other mosquito borne illnesses are a serious threat all through Africa and other developing countries. So a mossy net and anti-malarial tablets are a must! We were always welcomed wherever we went...and a meal is always provided. We were fed rice, chicken and makemba (cooking bananas/plantains). It took us about an hour and a half to reach this village on motorcycle. The literacy workers on their bicycles will take over four hours.

The reason for our trip--men and women, boys and girls learning to read their language. What really impressed me was the young boy I saw sitting next to a man who could be his grandfather, both learning to read and write their own language. The teachers were always encouraging. If any mistakes were made they were gently corrected. All the students would cheer and clap if someone read correctly off of the chalk



News from Our Missiologists

board. Old and young were given the same opportunity to read off the board. No one laughed if a mistake was made—the young ones respected the elders and they in turn also received respect. They all had one goal in mind—learning to read. I observed four levels of classes. In one third level class I saw the teacher have his students read from the gospel of Luke. Then he asked comprehension questions—had they understood what they read? So in this school the textbook is the Bible.

This is what Wycliffe Bible Translators and JAARS is all about. Translating the scriptures and getting it into the hands of the people. Judy and I have dedicated our lives to the support of Bible translation, literacy, and scripture in use. We are not translation or literacy workers, but God has enabled us to be gifted to serve others. You, our team of prayer warriors, supporters and encouragers, have made it possible for literacy workers to go even farther in spreading the Good News. Thank you for joining us in this awesome task!

Don Vander Ploeg



Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment

Christians are told to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 3:18). As infants, we need milk to grow, which is all we are ready for; however, as we mature, we begin to eat solid foods. We progress from pureed vegetables to Cheerios and then to meat. Along the way, we may find the solid food hard to chew at first and strange to the taste, but after a time, we begin to enjoy the taste and discover that we cannot live without it. As we mature, we also reach other milestones. We learn to read, to write, to add and subtract. As we mature, we find that learning becomes increasingly more important to our growth. It is the same with spiritual maturity. If we are to grow in the faith and knowledge of Christ, we must move on from spiritual milk. We need to enter the school of Christ and learn from Him. One of the greatest, and maybe hardest, lessons is true Christian contentment. Jeremiah Burroughs in his book, *Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*, takes us to Christ's school and helps us to understand this lesson.

Jeremiah Burroughs (1599-1646) was one of the most popular preachers in London during his time there. One of the Independent members of the Westminster Assembly of Divines and a Congregationalist, he spent 6 years at a small country church (St. Margaret's, Tivetshall). During his time in London, he preached in the mornings at the church in Stepney, outside of London, where William Greenhill preached in the afternoon. In the afternoons Burroughs preached at St. Giles Cripplegate. One of Burroughs' primary concerns was peace and contentment in the hearts of individual believers during what he describes as ‘sad and sinking times’.

Burroughs begins his lesson by describing Christian contentment as a “great art” and a “spiritual mystery,” and “to be well skilled in the mystery of Christian contentment is the duty, glory and excellence of a Chris-

tian.” “It is a sweet, inward heart thing. It is a work of the Spirit indoors. It is a box of precious ointment, very comforting and useful for troubled hearts in times of troubled conditions.” Finally, he describes Christian contentment as “an inward submission of the heart.”

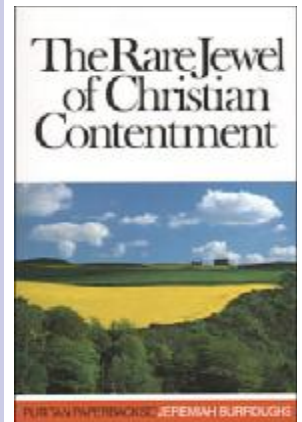
Burroughs does not end the lesson there, however. He goes on to explain the mystery of Christian contentment and how Christ teaches contentment. Just like a child in school, we must learn our ABC's and so it is with Christian contentment. “Whoever has not learned the lesson of the cross has not learned his ABC in Christianity.” You may find that the ABC's of Christianity are not what you thought. We must also learn arithmetic in Christ's school. Contentment is not found by addition, but by subtraction. Seeking to add a thing will not bring contentment. Instead, we learn that subtracting from our desires until we are satisfied only with Christ brings contentment.

Burroughs goes on to describe the evils of a murmuring spirit and discontented heart. By God's grace and mercy, Christians are brought to God's table every day, and whatever we have is free. It is a great sin if we grumble and complain because we have not gotten everything we might possibly have. He concludes his lesson by giving directions to help us “attain this grace of contentment.”

If you are currently under affliction and your heart is troubled, I would invite you to open this “box of precious ointment” and find comfort and contentment in Christ in all situations. If you are thinking everything is going great and this book is not for you, I ask you to examine yourself. Is your contentment found in earthly things and the current ease and comfort of the day? Regardless of one's spiritual maturity, we are all called to grow in grace and knowledge. The biblical teaching found in this book will help you do just that.

“For I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content” – Phil 4:11

This book review was written by Steve Strickland. If you would like to heed his advice and read this book for yourself, please stop by the church library. We have this book as part of the Puritan Paperback series. The language is somewhat updated into modern English so that it is more understandable for today's reader.



Published by
Banner of Truth

228 pages



Special Offering

Sunday, March 14th has been designated as G.E.M.S. and Cadets Sunday. We will be taking up a special offering (in addition to our weekly offering) to send to the national organizations for these two ministries. Please be sure to mark on your envelope how much is designated for this special offering.

The ministry of GEMS Girls' Clubs has been serving churches for over forty-five years. It is non-denominational with club participation in several different denominations and non-denominational churches throughout the United States and Canada. Curriculum is developed from a reformed perspective.

The Calvinist Cadet Corps is an independent (non-denominational) youth ministry organization whose purpose is to provide the local church with a ministry program that will enable them to effectively share Christ's love with boys from their church and community.

Children's Corner

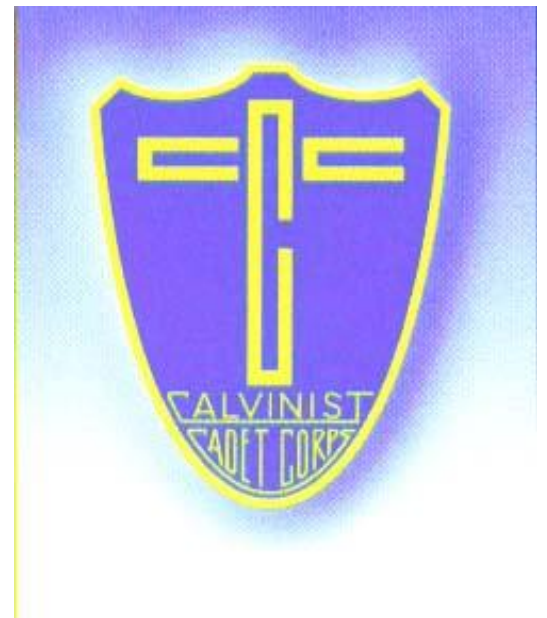
If boys and girls wearing scarves and gray and blue uniforms appear at our church one Sunday this month, they are not here to sell cookies; they are part of our girls and boys' clubs: GEMS and Cadets. March 14 is GEMS and Cadets Sunday, and children in our clubs will be participating in our worship service and displaying some of their work during coffee time. On Wednesday nights children in 1st through 6th grades meet to study the Bible, work on merit badges, and serve the church through special projects.



GEMS is an acronym for Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior. Our local club is part of a national organization in which girls are encouraged to learn about God, His Word, His world and their own talents and gifts. Every year all the clubs work on a theme badge; this year's theme is Build Others Up. The girls have been studying Ephesians 4:29 and how to apply that in their lives. For several weeks they played a Jeopardy-like game in which they examined problems and situations in which they focused on practical ways to encourage others.

The GEMS have also worked on a number of other badges including sewing, latch hooking, candle making, and a loyalty badge about the GEMS club itself. Cindy Quick, Leisa

Storey, and Donna Waugh have been leading our girls this year and have welcomed guests from our congregation to teach special skills. Last fall Lois Callen taught both the GEMS and Cadets about reptiles and held a water investigation class in her own back yard in White Trout Lake. Marsha Craig visited the clubs in December to teach the girls stamping and helped them make stationary and gift tags for their mothers as Christmas gifts. Recently, Marilyn Quick taught the older girls basic sewing skills and helped them make a pillow.



Like the GEMS, the Cadets at SPC are part of a national organization: the Calvinist Cadet Corps. Its stated goal is to build tomorrow's leaders today and to bring boys into a living relationship with Jesus Christ so that they will serve and love Him always. Our Cadet leaders this year, David Sutherland and Brian Waugh,

(Continued on page 9)



Shout Out

The Monthly Youth Section of the *Seminole Pres.*



Spring is a special time for Florida, not because we are invaded by thousands of rowdy college students, but because you can still see a major league baseball game for a dollar and a can of food. Spring training baseball takes us back to a special time in America. Last month I wrote about Ethan Byrne giving rides and challenged the congregation to be like Ethan, to do little things that make an big impact on the kingdom. One person took me literally. Amanda Quick has stepped up and filled the gap that Ethan left. The most common answer to the question, "How are you getting home?" has become, "Amanda." This is not just an example of some one doing something small for a greater good; it is an example of responsiveness. As Christians we should always be responding to the challenges of the Word. Or to put it in the language of our church: *Siempre Reformada*, Always Reforming.

Children's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 8)

have been leading our boys this year in their Bible studies and teaching them new skills. A few weeks ago after our morning worship service, they shot off rockets from behind the church to complete their Model Rocketry merit badge. They have also learned about braiding and making lanyards and are currently working a merit badge to learn more about the church. Later this spring they will complete their Cycling merit badge and plan to go camping.

What do our kids think about all these

merit badges, Bible studies, and activities? Joshua Fernandez said that he likes Cadets because "we have Bible lessons and we do fun stuff and get badges. We get to go camping at the end of the year." Christopher Waugh also looks forward to camping and said he and his friends like to play the game "Steal the Bacon" at Cadets. Asjia Sutherland said she likes the crafts at GEMS, and Eden Storey added, "We get to have fun with the all the teachers." Jazzmyn Gonzalez, a third grader in our younger GEMS club, concluded: "Everything we do is fun!"

The Lorica of St. Patrick

Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was a unique servant of God who led thousands into Christianity. He was born in 390 and died in 461. Here is a small portion of St. Patrick's statement of devotion to God:

I bind to myself today
God's Power to guide me,
God's Might to uphold me,
God's Wisdom to teach me,
God's Eye to watch over me,
God's Ear to hear me,
God's Word to give me speech,
God's Hand to guide me,
God's Way to lie before me,
God's Shield to shelter me,
God's Host to secure me,
Against the snares of demons,
Against the seductions of vices,
Against the lusts of nature,
Against everyone who meditates injury to me,
Whether far or near,
Whether few or with many.



A Brief Look Ahead

April

April 8—Maundy Thursday

April 9—Good Friday

April 11—Easter

April 24—SWIM Spring Tea

May

May 9—Mother's Day

May 30—Pentecost

May 31—Memorial Day

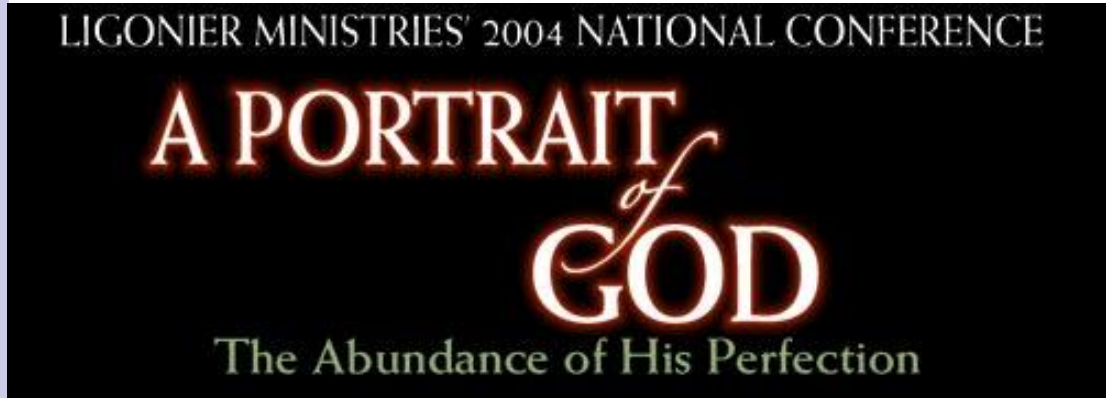
June

June 18-19—Church Work Days (Details TBA)

June 20—Father's Day

June 27—Installation of new officers

Coming Events



March 11-13, 2004
Calvary Assembly of God
Orlando, Florida

Since the beginning of time, God has made His character known throughout creation. We see His power and wisdom in the created order. The punishment of the wicked reflects His wrath and holiness, and His love and mercy are displayed in the history of redemption. As Christians, we glory in these displays of His perfection.

During Ligonier Ministries' 17th annual National Conference, we will come together to explore God's glorious character. We will let the Scriptures define His attributes, demonstrating how they fit together harmoniously within the Lord Himself.

We invite you to spend a few days in study, discussion, fellowship, and worship with fellow believers from all over the world. It is our hope that you will be able to clearly proclaim the abundance of God's perfection displayed in His attributes.

March 5th—6th
2nd SPC Family Campout
Hillsborough River State Park



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



SPC Calendar

March 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Camping Trip
7  Holy Communion 2nd Sunday in Lent	8	9	10	11	12 Ligonier Ministries Annual Conference	13
14 GEMS/CADETS Sunday 3rd Sunday in Lent	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 
21 4th Sunday in Lent	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 5th Sunday in Lent	29	30	31  Family Birthday Celebration			



Seminole Presbyterian Church

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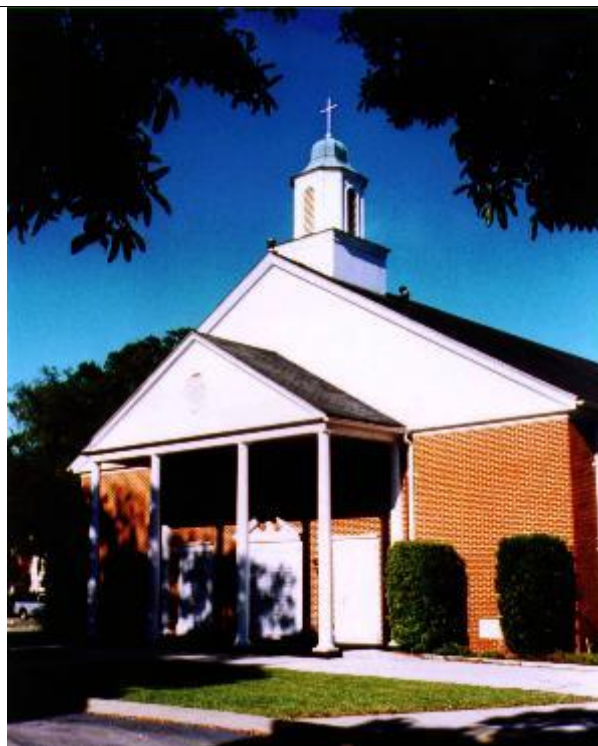
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A Congregation of the
Presbyterian Church in America

<http://www.pcanet.org>

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



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