

MIPC PRESS

**Merritt Island Presbyterian Church
February 2019**



Session Highlights



Your Session did not meet in January due to the fact that Presbytery must provide us a moderator. This has now been accomplished and the Session will meet on 2 February. Much is on the agenda, including:

- Assign a group from the Session to hire an interim pastor
- Provide training and examination of new Elders and Deacons
- Finalize a budget
- Schedule a congregational meeting

Plus several other items. Although the schedule is full, the Session always encourages every member to contact any Session member with any concerns or suggestions. Your opinions are valuable and all will be considered.

MIPC Session

We are grateful to our guest pastors, Rev. Dr. Daniel Williams and Rev. David Lindemer, for filling our pulpit in January.



On January 13 we enjoyed the lovely music of Upscale, a barbershop quartet led by Ted Beerman. We continue to be blessed each week by the music of our wonderful choir, organist and praise band.

In FEBRUARY we look forward to the following:

Feb. 3 is Communion Sunday, with worship led by Rev. Lindemer.

Feb. 10 is the beginning of Brevard-Indian River Presbyterians Mission Week, and we will welcome guest speakers Pastor Perline Cooper (Pastor of the FJKM Church of Madagascar) and Pastor Helivao Poget. See the Mission page for more information about their ministries.

Pulpit supply for the remainder of February is still TBD—keep an eye on your bulletins and weekly emails!

Speaking of which, if you are not getting our weekly update emails and would like to, please send a message to mipresbyterian@gmail.com.

Don't forget to check in regularly with our website, www.merrittislandpc.org, for updated information on all that happens here at MIPC!

Thank You/Stephen Ministry

Dear MIPC Family,

Thank you for all the wonderful cards, gifts, and well-wishes we have received. We appreciate all the love and support you have given us over the years. We are sad to leave but look forward to the opportunities ahead of us. We will see you all the next time we are in town.

Love,
The Franklin Family



~~~~~

“Each time we met, I could feel the burden lighten”  
Stephen Minister care receiver



“We can’t fix things, but we can walk along with people who are hurting”  
Bob Beers, Stephen Minister

“My Stephen Minister is more than a trusted friend. In her presence I experience God’s grace. I feel cared for, strengthened, and supported. She is truly a gift.”  
Stephen Minister care receiver

The above are actual quotes from Stephen Ministers and their care receivers, confirming the value of a Stephen Minister relationship. Stephen Ministers have received 50 hours of training to include listening skills, specific ministry situations, Christian caregiving, and more. Much of what a Stephen Minister does is listening without judgement. Confidentiality is key to Stephen Ministry. The care receiver is never identified and all conversations are kept completely private.

MIPC, in partnership with Grace Methodist church, has a strong Stephen Minister program. If you, or anyone you know, believes that you have a need for a Stephen Minister, or if you would like to learn more, please contact Craig Smoot (321-223-4841).

**Canned Food Drive** – The canned food drive is ongoing! Please bring canned foods each week to the box in the narthex. These will be delivered to and gratefully accepted by the Sharing Center of Central Brevard. And remember, if you ever want to do a donation to the Sharing Center “in lieu of” chancel flowers, we have a lovely display for the sanctuary to represent your donation!



**2 Cents Per Meal** – This ongoing ministry benefits local and national hunger programs through the Central Florida Presbytery. On the second Sunday (Feb. 10th), your donations may be placed in one of the cans in the narthex or in the specially marked pew envelope. There are cans available to take home if you wish to do the collection at home each day. It’s a wonderful habit to develop that will help feed the hungry!



## **2019 BIRP Mission Week Saturday, February 9-Sunday, February 17, 2019**

Over the last two years, we in Brevard and Indian River Presbyterian Churches have been blessed to learn about the people of Madagascar and the work of our partner FJKM Church in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ there. The FJKM denomination, larger than PCUSA, serves 5 million Malagasy Christians, and in 2018 celebrated the 50th anniversary of the denomination and 200 years of Christian witness in Madagascar.

We have learned about the work of Jan Heckler and supported efforts to train teachers in effective methods of teaching, rejoicing as that program became fully adopted in the FJKM schools and even adopted into the denominational budget! We have also learned about the work of Dan and Elizabeth Turk and supported two projects: the fruit Center at Mahatsinjo, which enables the FJKM to provide training and quality fruit trees to help subsistence farmers get out of poverty by growing fruit trees, and the renovation of a well system at the Conference Center in Isoavina Ambanitsena to give access to safe drinking water.

Before bringing our partnership to a close, there is one more issue we wish to address in solidarity with the FJKM denomination: human trafficking. As poverty and unemployment levels remain high in the country, many Malagasy citizens are vulnerable as they look for any work that might support

# Mission

themselves and their families. Some are lured by promises of steady employment, taking jobs as domestic workers in other countries, only to be turned into modern-day slaves as their passports are taken and wages are withheld. They endure physical abuse, sexual abuse and even death at the hands of their employers. Other communities are preyed upon by “sex tourists” who use traditional values of child marriage for their own benefit, turning children into commodities and leaving behind incredible trauma.

The FJKM church has and continues to address these issues, working with contacts and even governments to identify and return trafficked citizens from other countries, and then helping them to begin recovering from their experiences. They also work with communities to help them understand how traditional practices, rather than being honored and supporting their children, are being used to hurt them instead. Finally, they have created a chaplaincy (SAFFIFAA) among some of the most vulnerable people – prostitutes, drug addicts, street kids, street families – sharing the Gospel and helping them spiritually and financially to move away from street life.

The leader of SAFFIFAA, Pastor Helivao Poget, shared about her chaplaincy work, “It is hard work with a lot of risks and violence, but it brings me happiness because I can offer God’s protection and love for everyone. It is always an opportunity to share in real life, bringing hope not only to the street people but mainly for me. I share and receive at the same time. I feel the reality that we are all God’s beloved children.”

Our offering this year will go to support these efforts to end human trafficking and help victims of it. We hope you will help us to work with FJKM through SAFFIFAA to say to the world that the people of Madagascar are Children of God, Not for Sale.

*Cindy Bottomley*  
*Mission Chair*

## BIRP MISSION WEEK EVENTS

There is an opening worship and potluck gathering on Saturday, February 9th at 6:00 p.m. at Pineda Presbyterian Church. All BIRP churches are invited and our keynote speakers and several other speakers will be present. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet speakers before you hear them at church, or to be introduced to someone you may not otherwise hear from. The events happening at MIPC are:

- **Sunday, February 10th:** *Adult Sunday School 9 AM and during the 10 AM service* Pastors Perline Cooper and Helivao Poget will speak on the FJKM and on human trafficking in Madagascar.
- **Wednesday, February 13th at 10 AM:** Big Girls and Heavenly Handmade (and men too!) will hear Carol Hafer who has been to Madagascar on a dozen mission trips. Optional lunch afterwards at Olive Garden.

As a usual part of the mission week, we will be collecting an offering to stop human trafficking in Madagascar and aid victims who are recovering from being trafficked. We will collect our offering in specially marked envelopes or just by designating a check "Madagascar" and putting it in the collection plate, February 10th and onward. We hope that you will attend the conference week events and that you will become involved in this relationship. You can be in prayer for our partners even now, by remembering the people of Madagascar in your worship and personal devotions and by learning more about the issues of Madagascar by exploring the Madagascar Mission Network page on Facebook.

# Preschool



The MIPC Preschool continues to grow. There are now 85 children enrolled in our Preschool. Tammy Lewis, our director, continues to give tours and hand out packets of information. Tammy is waiting for enrollment packets for 13 children to be returned. Our first goal of 100 children will soon be reached. Parents who are interested in our preschool will soon have to put their children on a waiting list. Tammy hopes to get approval to increase the number of children at our preschool.

For the first time, we will be opening a second infant room. The number of children in the one-year-old classroom continues to grow; we hope to soon have a second one-year-old classroom. Then there will be two classes for every age group.

The preschool classes will soon be getting ready for their Valentine's Day celebration. There will be lots of valentines and a party in the classrooms for the children.

The new preschool office will soon be finished. It is located in part of the old Youth Building. It is already painted and the new flooring should be installed next week. It will be give Tammy and Robyn (assistant director) offices, plus a teacher's room/ conference center and storage rooms. The old office, room 6, will become the new infant room.

We are already collecting items for our Silent Auction in September. You may drop your items off at the church office or preschool office. Thank you for your continued support of the MIPC Preschool.

*Tammy Lewis, Preschool Director*

*Patricia Smith, Preschool Committee Chair*

# Preschool

*Here are a few pictures from our wonderful Breakfast with Santa on December 21!*



# Music

**JOYFUL RINGERS:** Handbell rehearsals are under way Wednesdays at 6 PM, under the direction of Maryrose Beerman. If you are interested in ringing with us, whether a novice or experienced ringer, we have a spot for you!

**CHANCEL CHOIR:** Director Chad McClellan continues our Wednesday night rehearsals at 7:00 PM. For our continued one-service Sundays, the Chancel Choir will offer an anthem each week. We welcome new and returning members of the choir, so please feel free to come to rehearsals and bring a friend!

**PRAISE BAND:** Rehearsals are on Tuesday nights at 6 PM, twice per month (in February, the 5th & 26th). If you like to sing contemporary Christian music or play an instrument, we would love to have you join us! Each Sunday during our 10 AM service, the Praise Band provides music for the Offertory and leads the praise songs. For more information, contact Leslie Mitchell.

Maryrose's husband Ted's barbershop group sang for us in worship in January. See the following page for information on their upcoming concert.



The Greater Canaveral Chapter  
of the Barbershop Harmony Society presents...  
**EVERYONE In Harmony!**

Featuring the Space Coast Chorus, the Orange Blossom Chorus, and Vocal Alliance



*Masterpiece*

*viva!*



**2013 International  
Gold Medalists**



**Sweet Adeline's  
2018 Silver Medalists**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 3:00 PM**

Merritt Island High School Performing Arts Center  
100 E Mustang Way, Merritt Island, FL 32953

**Tickets \$15 (advance) or \$20 (at the door)**  
Cash, Check, Credit Card or Eventbrite.com (search Merritt Island)  
for additional information or tickets contact  
Ted Beerman 321-323-6646 or [tbeerman@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tbeerman@cfl.rr.com)

# Member Spotlight



**CARL H. RITTER**, MIPC's Kitchen Overseer, turned a young eighty-two last October. Carl was born in Louisville, Kentucky, but his family moved to Purdue, Indianapolis when he was six.

While in the US Army, in 1961 Carl met and married his wife Leslie. They will have been married fifty-eight years this coming March. Though no longer in the service, Carl became the Manager of the Patrick Air Force Bowling Center from which he eventually retired.

When asked what he felt his greatest life achievement, Carl instantly answered, "My two sons!" It is evident that he is greatly proud of them. Carl also has ten grandchildren and nine great-grands. He expects that it won't be long before one of the great grands will make him and Leslie great-GREAT-grandparents.

Can you guess what Carl's favorite activity may be? Yep, you guessed right – cooking, of course. He especially enjoys spending every food-involved activity in the MIPC kitchen preparing, or receiving, the delectable goodies we eat. However, Carl's favorite food is corn beef and cabbage of which he declares he can "never get enough." It is only natural that Carl claims his favorite holiday to be St. Patrick's Day.

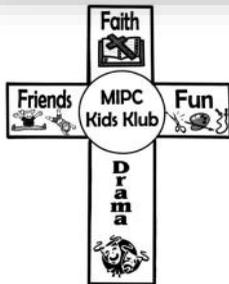
Carl has no regrets other than he wishes he and Leslie had found MIPC sooner. From the first day they walked into the church they were impressed by everyone's friendliness.

One item on Carl's Bucket List is left to do. He wants to tour Europe, particularly to visit Germany, land of his roots. Go to it, Carl, while you are as young as you are.

*Carol (C.J.) Illinik*

*(\*\*Our Mystery Baby and Pet of the Month will resume in March!)*

# Faith Formation Ministries



Merritt Island Presbyterian Church  
Kids Klub



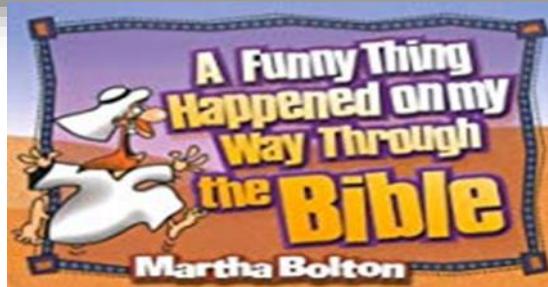
**Kids Klub's** started on January 15th and is off to a great start with 28 wonderful children enrolled for the Spring semester. Our show is *Danny & the Shacks*. Come along on this Babylonian epic, recounting the adventures of Daniel. Three young Hebrew men named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in conjunction with the prophet Daniel have a band called Danny & the Shacks. They embark on a roller-coaster thrill-ride of experiences as they encounter King Neb, his golden statue, some crazy Babylonians, the fiery furnace, and of course, the infamous lions den. Through it all, the powerful truth of God's Word and the importance of being obedient and faithful to His teaching comes through loud and clear in a storyline so fantastic and faith affirming, it could only come from the Word of God.

**Show Dates are May 4th & 5th at 4:00 p.m.**

If you know anyone who is interested in this amazing ministry please contact our Performing Arts Director, Mary Lou Tipton, at 321-452-5948 or [iccone1@yahoo.com](mailto:iccone1@yahoo.com), or Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate at 321-452-5689 ext. 104 or [mipcffm@gmail.com](mailto:mipcffm@gmail.com).

Information and registration forms are also available on our website.  
[www.merrittislandpc.org](http://www.merrittislandpc.org)

# Faith Formation Ministries



**One Purpose Productions** started on January 16th and is off to a great start with 17 wonderful youth enrolled for the Spring semester. Our show is

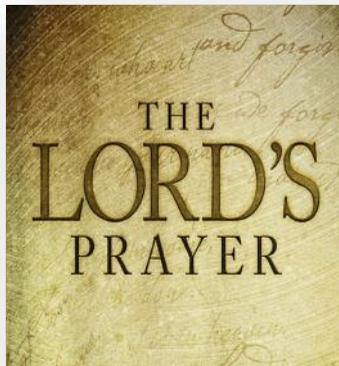
*A Funny Thing Happened to Me on My Way Through the Bible.*

Watch the Bible come to life with these delightfully funny sketches and monologues, interspersed with musical selections, taken from familiar biblical narratives written with great humor and charm.

**Show Dates are April 27th & 28th at 4:00 p.m.**

If you know anyone who is interested in this wonderful ministry, please contact our Performing Arts Director, Mary Lou Tipton, at 321-452-5948 or [iccone1@yahoo.com](mailto:iccone1@yahoo.com), or Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate at 321-452-5689 ext. 104 or [mipcffm@gmail.com](mailto:mipcffm@gmail.com). Information and registration forms are also available on our website. [www.merrittislandpc.org](http://www.merrittislandpc.org)

# Faith Formation Ministries



## Adult Faith Enrichment Class

**Session Room**

**Sunday Mornings 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.**

Join Sandy Hill for an ongoing study of The Lord's Prayer.

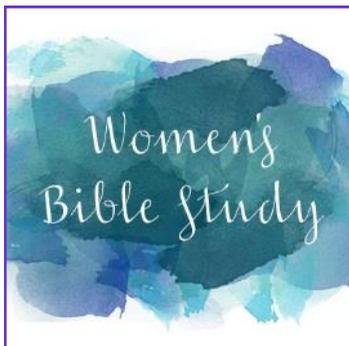
## Big Girls Bible Study

**Session Room**

with Carolyn Crockett

**Wednesday Mornings, 9:30-10:30 a.m.**

Wednesdays are for "Big Girls Only" - women of all ages who like to study the Bible with a little humor and a little appreciation for the "real life/adults only" stories of the Bible. Come laugh, ask your questions, and be blessed by an in-depth study with a circle of friends.



# Faith Formation Ministries

## “How Do You Read?” Loving God’s Word with Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength

With George Wilcox

Jesus asks one of his most intriguing questions in Luke’s lead-up to the Parable of the Good Samaritan: *And behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law?”*

How do you read (Luke 10:26 RSV)? The initial “What...?” question seems straightforward enough; the “How...?” question, on the other hand, raises all sorts of possibilities for interpretation. Just how do we read scripture?

In order to:

learn something about a bible passage?

prove a point?

win an argument?

inform and enrich our prayer life?

find guidance for daily discipleship?

consider different perspectives?

There’s a whole history behind this “How...?” question and a host of different ways to answer it. If you are curious to explore some of time-tested approaches to reading the Bible, join Pastor George Wilcox for an informal, interactive series entitled, “How Do You Read?” GET CURIOUS WITH CURIOUS GEORGE! The class sessions will begin in February after the completion of “The Lord’s Prayer” study.

# Faith Formation Ministries

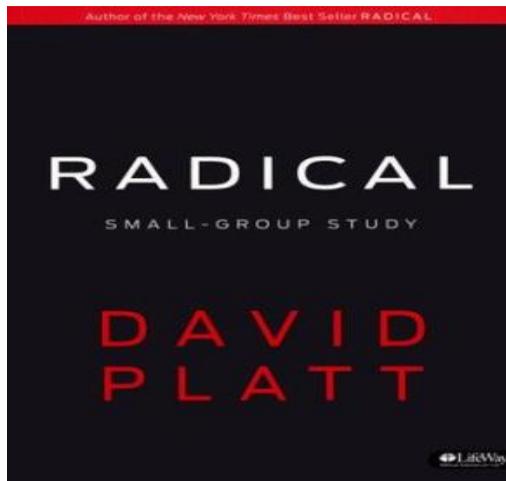
## *“Radical”*

*Bible Study for Everyone*

*with Tammy Lewis*

*Every other Thursday evening beginning on  
January 31<sup>st</sup>, 5:00-6:00 p.m.*

*Session Room*



**In this 6-session Bible Study, David Platt invites you to encounter what Jesus actually said about being his disciple, and then obey what you have heard. He challenges you to consider with an open heart how we have manipulated a God-centered gospel to fit our human-centered preferences.  
It's a radically different way to look at Christianity.**

**Study Books are \$10.00**

*Please come and join us!*

# Faith Formation Ministries



## *Women's Ministry Meet & Greet Event*

*Save the Date: Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00 p.m.*

*Fellowship Hall*

*Hosted by the Women's Retreat Leadership Team*



**Come and join us for Wine, Punch, Hors d'oeuvres and Fellowship! This is a great way to make new friends and reunite with old friends that we haven't seen in a while. We will have activities, games and lots of fun and laughter!**

**Mark your calendars, you don't want to miss this event!**



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Bailey Stimson
- 2 Ok Sun Sharpe
- 6 Dottie Grothjahn
- 9 Randy Eastep
- 10 Alecia Dutter
- 10 Olivia Carden
- 11 Paul Fernald
- 12 Bailey McMaster
- 12 Shirley Bottomley
- 16 Gerry Raines
- 18 Gail Stalnaker
- 19 Elaine Kicklighter
- 19 Marilyn Smoot
- 20 Abe Sarkarati
- 21 Al Sams
- 24 Julie Lawhon
- 24 Ronny Gould
- 25 Lorrie Peek
- 28 Lee Barnhart
- 28 Tom Boekhout

## BUDGET REPORT

YTD as of 12/31/18

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Actual Revenue:  | \$234,824 |
| Budgeted :       | \$284,703 |
| Actual Expenses: | \$267,524 |
| Budgeted:        | \$284,433 |



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 14 Craig & Julie Hill
- 22 Lorrie & Larry Peek



**MARCH NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:  
February 15**

*The MIPC Press is printed by the Merritt Island Presbyterian Church,  
600 S. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, Florida 32952.*

**Pam Poland**  
**Leslie Mitchell**  
**Maryrose Beerman**  
**Tammy Lewis**  
**Chad McClellan**  
**MaryLou Tipton**  
**John Heenan**  
**Leslie & Carl Ritter & Crew**

Faith Formation Ministries Associate  
Financial Secretary, Praise Band Director  
Organist and Handbell Director  
Preschool Director  
Chancel Choir Director  
Performing Arts Director  
Sexton  
Newsletter Coordinators

**Each month, we feature an “Eco-Friendly Tip!” It’s our way of helping conserve resources and preserve our beautiful Brevard beaches and waterways. This month’s tip:**



*Do you ever wonder, “Can I recycle this?” Things like batteries, old Christmas cards, computers, CDs/DVDs, etc. cannot go in our recycle bins—BUT—there is a wonderful resource in Rockledge called Recycle Brevard. They will take many of these items and either re-use or “upcycle” them so they don’t need to go to our landfill. Check out their website at [www.recyclebrevard.org](http://www.recyclebrevard.org). They also have a very active Facebook page and are constantly updating their information.*

*Do you have a tip to share? Contact [mipresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:mipresbyterian@gmail.com)*

**Please contact the church office if we can assist you in any way.**



**Office phone number: 321-452-5689**  
**Preschool phone number: 321-453-1640**  
**Office fax number: 321-454-4988**  
**Send E-mail to: [MIPresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:MIPresbyterian@gmail.com)**  
**Preschool email: [MIPCPreschool@gmail.com](mailto:MIPCPreschool@gmail.com)**

**Office extensions:**

**101: Reception**  
**102: Leslie Mitchell**  
**104: Pam Poland**  
**105: Pastor’s Office**  
**201: Preschool**

**Email: [mipresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:mipresbyterian@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.merrittislandpc.org](http://www.merrittislandpc.org)**

**Facebook: [Facebook.com/Merritt.Island.Presbyterian.Church](https://www.facebook.com/Merritt.Island.Presbyterian.Church)**

**Twitter: [@MIPresby](https://twitter.com/MIPresby)**