



## Treat Yourself and Help a Student

**T**he Deacons are hosting The Club Singers on Sunday, April 8th at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This outstanding choral ensemble is an all-volunteer group, non-profit organization that gives back to the community by providing scholarships to worthy music students and to organizations that promote the arts and charities. They will be joined by the Milagro Center Children's Choir.

**A** free-will offering will be collected to benefit First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach's Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to the church family's high school students pursuing higher education, as well as the Milagro Center of Delray Beach's music program.

**M**ark this date on your calendar and make sure to invite a friend or two for what will be an enjoyable afternoon!



## MISSION COMMITTEE AGENCY TOUR

**ALL ABOARD!**

**T**he Mission Committee Agency Tour will take place Wednesday, April 18th from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. We will be visiting several agencies supported by our Mission Outreach budget: Wayside House, the Achievement Centers for Children & Families, and the Boys and Girls Club of Delray Beach. There is no cost to participate. To make a reservation, please contact Nancy Fine ([nancyfine@firstdelray.com](mailto:nancyfine@firstdelray.com) or 276-6338, ext. 10).



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# From My Heart to Yours

by **Dr. W. Douglas Hood, Jr.**

Senior Pastor



## ALL ON ME

**“Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.”**

Matthew 11:28 (Common English Bible)

*All On Me*, a song with a catchy melody and recorded by country music artist Devin Dawson, is an invitation by the narrator to someone who is deeply loved and is experiencing a heavy load: “You got my number you can call on me. If you’re in trouble put the fall on me. When you’re mad you can take it out on me.” And a few stanzas later: “When it gets heavy put the weight on me. Baby put it all on me. Put it all on me.” Dawson said in an interview with *Taste of Country* that he has a personal connection with this track because he’ll do anything to take some of the heavy load from his girlfriend. Crafting the lyrics with bandmate Austin Smith and Jacob Durrett, Dawson was looking to articulate something he could get behind fully, something that expresses the depth of the commitment he was prepared to make to another.

In this single sentence spoken by Jesus Christ, and captured by the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is making the same commitment: “Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads.” Often Jesus is understood as someone who teaches wisdom for our daily living, providing wise counsel for the multiple decisions that press against each one of us. But the language here is something richer and more gracious than simply offering direction along our daily journey of life. There will be moments in life when direction isn’t what we most urgently need. I speak of those moments, common to everyone, when the journey becomes hard and the load we bear is heavy. In those moments, Jesus reminds us that he is very present with us and invites us to shift some of the burden we carry to his shoulders: “and I will give you rest.”

Jesus becomes more than someone who gives wise and intelligent guidance for the living of each day. The good news that is offered here is that life isn’t simply a matter of human effort. Certainly, Jesus provides insight, but Jesus does more. Jesus is a constant companion who is always available to share our burdens and give us rest. The “rest” Jesus promises is love, healing, and peace with God. When the weight of the world causes us to stumble, Jesus is present to catch us, stand us back on our feet, and give encouragement to take the next steps forward. Life has now become a holy partnership that mingles human striving with the strength of God. No longer is the struggle of life a solo act. Jesus asks, “Come to me.” Jesus desires to share company with us.

Dawson loves the line “When it don’t add up, you can count on me.” It is a simple but clever turn of phrase that invites another way of looking at life – an uncommon approach that realizes that when life fails to work one way, another direction is available. Jesus’ life and ministry was a continuous invitation to see the wondrous possibilities available to anyone who trusts in God. Yes, failure is part of life. But defeat does not have to be our story. Jesus is present to God’s people and that changes the mathematical equation of life. Near the end of this song, the narrator sings, “C’mon relax your mind on me. When you need a shoulder, you can cry on me. Baby you can bet your life on me.” In this season of Lent, we hear Jesus saying the same thing to us, “bet your life on me.” Then Jesus turns once again, and climbs up on a cross. ❖

*Gratitude is expressed to Pamela Kent for bringing this song to my attention.*

## Church Staff

W. Douglas Hood, Jr., D.Min.  
Senior Pastor

Kernie Kostrub, M.Div.  
Associate for Pastoral Care

Donald J. Cannarozzi, M.M., J.D.  
Organist / Director of Music

James K. Poch, S.M.M.  
Associate Director of Music

Grace Cameron Hood, B.C.E.  
Director of Children and Family Ministry

Len Battifarano, CLP  
Director of Membership and Discipleship

Nancy Fine, CCA  
Business Administrator

Christine Davis      Mindi Cole  
Accountant              Secretary

Aaron Strippel      Rita Avery  
Head Custodian      Custodian

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## The Spire

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Tim Knapp

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Char Conklin

SPECIAL THANKS:  
*Printers Choice*

**If you or a family member are hospitalized, please notify the church office. Even if you give the name of the church upon admission, the hospital will NOT notify us.**

# CUSTOM BIBLE LAND EXPLORATION



**Co-Hosts:**  
**Dr. Doug Hood**  
**Grace Hood**

**Dr. Michael Brown**  
**Page Brown**



**November 13th – 22nd, 2019**  
**\$3,398 per person, departure from JFK**

## ITINERARY

### **Day 1 and 2 – USA to the Holy Land**

### **Day 3 – The Galilee**

Sea of Galilee, Capernaum (Matt. 4), Mount of Beatitudes (Matt. 5), Church of the Fish and the Loaves (Luke 9), Chapel of the Primacy (John 21), Jordan River Baptismal Site (Mark 1)

### **Day 4 – Cana, Nazareth, Megiddo & Caesarea**

Franciscan Wedding Church in Cana (John 2), Nazareth (Matt. 2), Tel Megiddo (Revelation 16), Caesarea (Acts 10)

### **Day 5 – Jericho, Qumran & the Mount of Olives**

Jericho (Josh. 6), Mount of Temptation (Matt. 4), Qumran, Mount of Olives (Acts 1), Optional Dinner in a Palestinian Christian Family's Home

### **Day 6 – Bethlehem & Jerusalem**

Bethlehem (Matt. 1), Shepherds' Fields (Luke 2), Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26), Mount Zion, House of Caiaphas (Matt. 26), Upper Room (Mark 14), Contemporary Dialogue Lecture this evening

### **Day 7 – Jerusalem & the Old City**

Western Wall, Teaching Steps, Cardo, Pool of Bethesda (John 5), Church of St. Anne, Herod's Antonia Fortress (Luke 23), Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Optional Sound & Light Show

### **Day 8 – Leisure Day/Masada & the Dead Sea**

Explore on your own or visit Masada and the Dead Sea (additional charge)

### **Day 9 – Jerusalem**

Ein Karem (Luke 1), Yad Vashem (Israel's Holocaust Memorial), Garden Tomb (John 19)

### **Day 10 – Return Home or Enjoy an Extension**

*For more information, contact Nancy Fine ([nancyfine@firstdelray.com](mailto:nancyfine@firstdelray.com) or 276-6338, ext. 10).*



# Deacons' Corner

by Mary Martinéz and Chuck Holderness

## New Deacons Abound: Meet Some!

**Y**es, this is Mary, still taking a guiding hand in putting together the Deacons' Corner as we transition the task to one of our new Deacons, Chuck Holderness. Chuck has graciously agreed to give it a try, and I've promised to let go (soon). I've convinced him that we should keep up the tradition of writing a short introduction of each of the new members of the team, which I have always found intriguing and inspiring. We asked each of the new Deacons to respond to a couple of questions as the basis for the brief introductions you'll find below. I thought it would be nice to start with an introduction to Chuck, himself, and his spouse, Debbie, followed by three of our other newly installed Deacons.

**Chuck Holderness** tells me that becoming a Deacon was a way to get more fully involved in First Delray, as he had been when he and Debbie attended a church in Greensboro, NC. When asked about his particular gifts or talents as a Deacon, Chuck said he is looking forward to getting to know his flock and hopes he can make a difference in their lives. (I noticed he didn't say he has lots of experience writing newsletters, but I know he'll do a great job!) A significant talent that I'm sure will come in handy

in some way as he guides his flock is his experience as a pilot. He has logged about 4,000 flight hours, loves formation flying, and once owned a powered parachute. (You'll have to ask him how that works.)

**Debbie Holderness** says she is very honored to have been asked to be a Deacon at First Delray. And we are happy to gain someone with her experience: she was a Deacon and then an Elder at her former church. She says, "I know how much more you get out of life by giving of yourself, so I am delighted to be involved in the life of this church." In terms of her other passions, she loves being outside, including gardening and playing golf. When she's not out and about, she keeps herself busy with calligraphy, painting, and as she puts it, "being called Grandmommie."



**Chuck and Debbie Holderness**

**Candy Zolcinski** and her husband have been attending here since they first started coming to the area as snow birds several years ago. Once they moved here permanently, she says, she knew she wanted to join the church and get involved in a more significant way. Like Debbie, Candy considers it an honor to take on the Deacon role. Candy brings us a

wealth of leadership, management, training, and teaching skills, gained from owning her own day care business along with her other careers in customer service and project management for large corporations. I know you are going to want to ask her about setting up and managing a pilot customer service center in Hyderabad, India! She says it was an eye-opening experience and made her extremely thankful to live in the United States.



**Candy Zolcinski**

**Courtenay Szakats** grew up going to West Side Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood, NJ where her father served as a Deacon for many years. Courtenay and her husband, John, raised their family of two daughters in suburban D.C. and then NJ, moving to Florida in 2015, which she initially found to be a difficult adjustment. She says she finally found a sense of peace and belonging at First Presbyterian, where Dr. Hood's inspiring sermons and the wonderful music led the couple to become members in 2016. Courtenay began working at Holly House last May, where she says the women enveloped her with warm, loving fellowship. Noting that she is "humbled" to be elected a Deacon, she hopes her faith and

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# Session Report

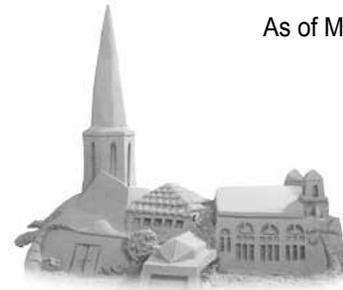
During the month of February, the Session examined and received new members and approved a baptism. At the regular meeting on February 20th, the Session:

- Thanked Elders Gimmy, Jessell, and Lawrence for their work on the Session.
- Agreed that ten random members of the congregation would participate in a three-year Presbyterian Panel.
- Approved a request from the Evangelism and Membership Growth Committee to approve new members remotely, with the examination process to be decided administratively by the church staff.
- Approved the Mission Outreach Committee's request to dedicate the One Great Hour of Sharing (March 25th, 2018) to the Caring Kitchen to help with their transition and relocation expenses.
- Approved the Mission Outreach Committee's request to participate in the Pajama Program at a time to be determined.
- Denied the request for CROS Ministries to serve bagged breakfasts on the church campus.
- Decided that the church will plan a community worship service and information session in response to the opioid crisis. (This event will be on Sunday, May 6th, 2018 at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary.)

## CHURCH OPERATIONS SUMMARY THROUGH FEBRUARY

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Member's Pledge Payments	\$120,939	\$109,752
Other Operating Receipts	50,678	48,856
Investments Used	34,866	57,912
<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>\$206,483</b>	<b>\$216,520</b>
<b>Operating Disbursements</b>	<b>\$206,483</b>	<b>\$216,576</b>

As of March 12, 2018



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF DELRAY BEACH

*Your Home by the Sea*

**Capital Campaign Goal: \$3,500,000**

**Amount Pledged: \$3,362,878**

**Amount Received: \$2,981,743**

## We Welcome to Our Membership

*Kathleen Baxter*

*Becky Carlin*

*Penny Johnson*

*Suzanne Lyman*

*Thomas Lyman, III*

*Peter Schottland*

*Susan Schottland*

*Mary Wehler*

*Ned Wehler*

WELCOME





# A Word from Kernie Kostrub, Associate for Pastoral Care

*by Rev. Kernie Kostrub,  
Associate for Pastoral Care*

There are many so-called “one another” passages in the New Testament. They tell us what to do in relation to others in the Body of Christ. One of those “one another” exhortations is “encourage one another.” Hebrews 10:25 says, “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

When Dr. Greg Ogden was with us, he told a story about encouraging one of the music leaders in his church. The leader replied, “Thanks, I hardly ever hear a word of encouragement.” Then Dr. Ogden said that to grow in our relationships, we must grow in our encouragement of one another.

So reflect as you come to worship on Sunday. You already followed Hebrews 10:25 by not giving up meeting together. That is good! Now who can you encourage on Sunday morning? First, the greeters at the door – encourage them by saying thank you for greeting. Next, as a Deacon gives you a bulletin, encourage them by saying thanks for being a Deacon. Then, as you sit down next to someone you may not know, welcome them and thank them for coming to worship. After worship, take a moment to encourage Dr. Hood or the person who preached that morning. Say a word of thanks to someone in the choir, as well as Don and Jim who play the piano and organ. Say a word of encouragement to Nancy, Justice, and Ray in the sound booth, and also to Aaron who is always around helping in so many ways. Finally, say a word of encouragement to those who help with refreshments after the service in the Narthex.

I am sure there are others that will come to your mind to encourage. Of course, you cannot encourage everyone every Sunday, but you can encourage one person each Sunday and even during the week. So let us encourage one another! ❖

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## ***New Deacons Abound: Meet Some!***

desire to connect with others will allow her to serve this wonderful congregation.



**Courtenay Szakats**

**Miriam Kalett** makes the trek to First Delray from Ft. Lauderdale each Sunday and has previously served as a Deacon here – something I didn’t know. She says it is an honor to be entrusted with caring for a flock of members. Miriam came to the

U.S. from Cuba in 1960 to attend the University of Cincinnati, where she completed degrees in literature and languages, and eventually taught. Later, she held teaching positions at Indiana University and part-time here at the University of Miami. She also brought her talents to the Broward County libraries, where she managed their programming. Miriam has run many book discussion groups over the years and lent her language expertise to assisting those who are not native English speakers. She has a daughter who is carrying on the literary tradition as an editor at the Princeton University Press.



**Miriam Kalett**

***To be continued!*** We are blessed with many new Deacons we want you to get to know, and Chuck will be introducing more of the team in the May issue.

❖ ❖ ❖

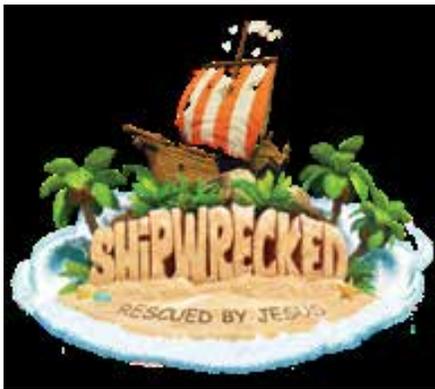


# Faith and Fun for Families and Children

*by Grace Cameron Hood,  
Director of Children and Family Ministry*

## **Easter Sunday News**

**T**here will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 1st. We invite all school age children to remain with their parents and guardians during this special Easter Service. The Nursery will be open for the 9 a.m. service, and Bible Bunch and Nursery will be provided for children kindergarten and under at the 11 a.m. service. ❖



## **Vacation Bible School**

**P**ut VBS on your calendars now! We are planning to have it on June 11th – 15th, from 9 a.m. to Noon. We will be using Group’s Shipwrecked...Rescued by Jesus. This year we will be concentrating on how Jesus takes care of us in all situations. We are looking for volunteers of all ages to help! If you would like to participate in the planning of this great week, please email Grace Hood ([gracehood@firstdelray.com](mailto:gracehood@firstdelray.com)). ❖

## **Upcoming Events for the Youth**

*There is a place for you!!*

### **Youth Spaghetti Luncheon, April 29th**

**T**he youth will be hosting a Spaghetti Luncheon in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 29th, after the 11 a.m. service. This event raises money for Montreat and the Youth Mission Trip. Members are invited to sit and eat, or take home a delicious meal. Suggested donation is \$7 per person.

### **Youth Sunday, May 6th**

**O**n Youth Sunday, May 6th at 10 a.m., several youth will be sharing leadership roles and leading the service. This will be a wonderful day for the church and for our youth as we transition into one service. The youth would like to thank the church for its ongoing support!

### **Youth Mission Trip to Mobile, Alabama, June 23rd – 29th**

**T**he youth will be joining with another church to help lead a VBS for underprivileged children. Anyone interested in going to Mobile must confirm by emailing Grace Hood ([gracehood@firstdelray.com](mailto:gracehood@firstdelray.com)) by the end of March.

### **Montreat Youth Conference, June 21st – 28th**

**A**n anyone interested in going must confirm by emailing Grace Hood ([gracehood@firstdelray.com](mailto:gracehood@firstdelray.com)) by the end of April.

**See page 9 for April Youth Calendar**



# Holly House

*by Eileen Robinson*

## Holly House is Back to Creating!

**H**olly House resumes Tuesday, March 27th to begin working on new projects for the Fall 2018 Bazaar.

***Interested in joining?*** Come any Tuesday or Thursday morning 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to help make creative crafts. You can choose the days and hours that you can volunteer to work.

**H**olly House welcomes beginner crafters, craft experts, sewers, bead makers, flower arrangers, artists, and all friendly women, whether you are a member of the church or not.

**W**e are appreciative for whatever time you may have to volunteer. Questions or need more information? Contact Cindy (374-8707).

**H**ere are some pictures from the successful Step-Above Rummage Sale. We celebrated the hard work of those involved at our annual luncheon this past February.

**H**olly House members are grateful for the bounty of everyone's participation, donations, and purchases at the Rummage Sale. We are also grateful to be able to donate items to the following charities:

The Achievement Centers for Children & Families  
Animal Rescue Force of South Florida  
Caridad Center  
CROS Ministries  
Dress for Success  
Faith Farm Ministries  
Family Promise of South Palm Beach County  
Foster Families

Florida Breast Cancer Foundation  
Ginger's Closet  
Goodwill  
Haitian Foundation  
Habitat for Humanity  
Viet Nam War Vets  
St. George's Center

*All helpers are treasured and are promised a great opportunity to share our fellowship as we help our church. Please join us!*



# Mission Spotlight: Achievement Centers for Children & Families

*by Kari Shipley*

**D**id you know that 10% of what you give to our church is designated towards mission work and supporting local nonprofits? These include CROS Ministries, the Achievement Centers for Children & Families, AVDA, Boys and Girls Club of Delray Beach, the Caridad Center, the Community Caring Center, Family Promise, Wayside House, the Drug Abuse Foundation, CRC Recovery, and International Disaster Assistance.

**D**id you also know we have also been instrumental in helping several small nonprofits get started? 48 years ago, our church schoolroom hosted a small group of children and their teachers to start an affordable child care program for low-income working mothers. With our yearly support, the Achievement Centers for Children & Families has grown to a 19,000-square-foot campus, serving over 700 children and their families. The original vision has evolved to accommodate the many needs of our local at-risk children and their working families, including toddler and preschool programs, after-school programs for students in kindergarten through 8th grade, a teen program, and adult education courses at Village Academy. Many of our church members serve there as volunteers, board members, and fundraisers, making a big difference right here in Delray. All of us agree that seeing the smiling and loving faces of those children is our heavenly reward!

*First Presbyterian continues to make a difference both locally and internationally,  
and we are truly blessed to be a part of these wonderful missions. ❖*

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# GOODNESS WITHOUT GOD? THE THEOLOGICAL MISSTEPS OF A WRINKLE IN TIME

A Movie Review by Nathanael Hood, MA,  
New York University



The irony is almost too much. Upon its initial release in 1962, Madeleine L'Engle's young adult sci-fi epic *A Wrinkle in Time* was roundly attacked and condemned by conservative groups for a panoply of preposterous reasons. Some claimed that it promoted witchcraft by featuring three female-passing immortal characters with seemingly supernatural powers to teleport and shapeshift. Some objected to the text's referring to Jesus as a historical figure who, alongside other luminaries like Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha, helped push back the forces of darkness in human history. And some even argued that the book somehow made young readers challenge their religious beliefs. As a result, the book was banned from schools and libraries throughout the country. In one of the more flatly preposterous examples of censorship gone amok I've ever encountered as a film writer and cultural scholar, in the 1990s *A Wrinkle in Time* was banned and publicly challenged more times than Bret Easton Ellis' *American Psycho*, a book which describes in hideously graphic detail the exploits of a sexually perverted serial killer. And now, with the release of Disney's new cinematic adaptation of the novel by Academy Award-nominated director Ava DuVernay, those same groups that picketed the novel in the 60s are indignantly

protesting the film's excision of its Christian influences. It seems the late Mrs. L'Engle cannot win.

I have no intentions of poking a stick into the proverbial anthill of public discourse surrounding DuVernay's *A Wrinkle in Time*, particularly as it has already received its fair share of scrutiny on the part of critics and audiences (at the time of writing, the film currently has a 42% rating on Rotten Tomatoes). But the subject of the film's depiction of faith, or lack thereof, bears examining. After all, for all her critics' claims of religious subversion, L'Engle herself was a passionate, outspoken Christian. Serving for years as the official writer-in-residence at New York City's Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine, L'Engle blended explicit Christian theology into science-fiction and fantasy stories geared towards younger audiences with a fervor and skill rivaled only by C. S. Lewis.

Consider *A Wrinkle in Time* itself. The book follows the four Murray children and their friend Calvin O'Keefe as they are spirited away on an intergalactic adventure to rescue their scientist father from the clutches of IT—a bodiless telepathic brain from the planet Camazotz that seeks to dominate the universe through fascistic conformity. IT is an avatar for The Black Thing—the literal

embodiment of all the universe's evil that wages an endless war against the forces of good and light. Helping the children are Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Witch, three mysterious beings with great powers, posing as bag-ladies who are later revealed to be servants of the light. They inspire the children to defeat the darkness, not through violence and fighting, but through pure, self-sacrificing love. The references to Christianity are direct and deliberate. The three Mrs.'s can be read as angels, saints, or even aspects of the Holy Trinity—one of them even directly quotes 1 John. One planet visited by the children is named after the Archangel Uriel, while the planets controlled by IT and The Black Thing are named after real-life pagan gods like Ixchel, the Mayan jaguar goddess of medicine. And Jesus is indeed mentioned as one of the light's greatest champions against the darkness.

But the movie removes all the Christian theology and replaces with with mealy-mouthed New Age humanism. All quotations of scripture and references to Jesus are removed (curiously, Buddha still gets mentioned in

Continued on page 11

*The following letter was sent to Jeanne Heavilin, Chair of the Mission Outreach Committee, in response to the donation made to Peace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Key West from the 2017 Christmas Eve Offering.*

Dear Jeanne,

***We are overwhelmed by the generosity of this gift!***

When you first approached me about sending a portion of your congregation's Christmas Eve offering so soon after Hurricane Irma to help us with our relief efforts in the Florida Keys I was amazed by the generosity of spirit, your desire to help others, and your congregation's commitment to the connectional nature of the Presbyterian Church USA in assisting a fellow congregation's mission efforts. However, this gift has far exceeded anything we could have imagined, and the good it will do will be multiplied throughout our community.

To date, we have helped over 40 individuals and families with Hurricane Irma assistance. Most of these gifts have been used for housing assistance, mortgage and rental payments, providing for transportation (assistance in purchasing scooters), building and construction materials, rebuilding costs, and providing for personal care expenses. We have helped individuals and families from Key West to Big Pine. The range of assistance has included children, youth, college students, and adults. At least twelve of those we helped were Monroe County School Teachers and Staff.

With the generosity of your church, and those who contributed to this offering, we will continue to be able to make a difference in the lives of those affected by the storm. We are still seeing great needs and are working to meet the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our community by providing assistance and counseling. I will follow up with you in a later correspondence detailing some of how your offering is being used.

On behalf of the staff, officers, and members of Peace Covenant Presbyterian Church, and those with whom we are ministering, I want to thank First Presbyterian Church of Delray, its members and supporters, for partnering with us in meeting the needs of our community. Your offering, and the generosity of spirit with which it is given, will make a huge difference in the lives of those in need, and we thank you for it.

Sincerely,

***The Reverend Dr. Lawrence L. Schenk***

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## A WRINKLE IN TIME

passing). The Mrs.'s have much of their dignity and gravity as emissaries from a benevolent, all-loving creator replaced with manic quirkiness that draws easy laughs from the audience. The essential thrust of the film is one of personal empowerment for confused young people, particularly Meg (Storm Reid), an emotionally conflicted thirteen-year-old paralyzed by low self-esteem and social awkwardness. The oldest Mrs.—Mrs. Which (Oprah Winfrey)—gives her a rousing speech about believing in herself and finding the light within. This is, of course, a

fine and noble sentiment for young people, particularly those from disenfranchised minority backgrounds. But it saps the film of its rigor, draining all of the poetic lifeblood of its original allegory. What's left is a moral that has been echoed by countless kid's movies and television shows.

I want to emphasize that I don't believe this stripping of Christian influence was some sinister ploy on the part of Disney or the filmmakers to subversively secularize America. Certainly DuVernay shouldn't be attacked—throughout her career she has

proved herself a filmmaker of great insight, respect, and compassion on the subject of religion, most particularly in her 2014 biopic of Martin Luther King Jr. *Selma* (2014). If anything, I think this was a decision made by higher-ups to make the film more digestible for general audiences, particularly international ones in Asia where Christianity isn't the majority religion. But doing so seems to have been a fatal mistake. Faith in the Christian God was essential to L'Engle and her work. Removing it leaves a scar that cannot be healed by any amount of CGI.

◆◆◆

*The Community Church by the Sea*  
33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, Florida 33483

This newsletter is available online at [www.firstdelray.com](http://www.firstdelray.com). If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter, please email Nancy Fine at [nancyfine@firstdelray.com](mailto:nancyfine@firstdelray.com)

## Sunday Morning Worship Service

**9 a.m. & 11 a.m.**

Please join us on Sunday mornings as we worship the Living God together.

### Church School

Adult Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Sunday School for Children 11 a.m.

### Youth Fellowship

Sundays, 6 p.m.

## Prayer Ministry Team

*Oswald Chambers said, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." Here at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach we believe this is true. We intend every ministry of the church to flourish in the rich soil of prayer. And since a praying church is made up of praying people, we want to encourage and equip our membership in the vital ministry of prayer.*

*The Prayer Ministry Team meets on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in the Meeting Room in the Center for Christian Studies.*

*Each request is handled with respect, confidentiality, and care. If a request includes a name and address, a card will be sent to confirm that prayer was offered during the week the request was received. You are invited to join this prayer ministry team simply by calling Sharon Koch (414-9165). Sharon will be happy to provide additional information about this ministry and welcome you to participate.*