



The Beacon

April 2018



First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood
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Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 Noon

Staff Directory

Pastor: The Rev. Susan Takis
Secretary: Janet Cressman
Accompanist: Eunice Mosier
Interim Music Director: Connie Emery
Parish Associate: Dr. Howard Newman

Session Members:

Barb England John Ulrich
Louise Fahey Chuck Loser
Tom McKee Carole Norton
Fran Simone

Church Diaconate:

Nancy Myers, Moderator
Rev. Susan Takis, Advisor
Jan Coleman Connie Emery
Dru Movizzo
Janie Kirkpatrick Marilyn Englesbe



The Beacon is published monthly by the church staff and volunteers. Beacon Editor: Marge O’Kane. **Deadline for submitting an article for The Beacon is the 4th Friday of the prior month or sooner if at all possible.** May’s deadline is Friday, April 27. All articles submitted for consideration must include the author’s name, telephone or email, and are subject to editing. **Please submit information for all media sources to fpcmedia203@gmail.com.** If you’d like to have The Beacon sent to you via email, send your address to the office at fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com.

Our Mission is to be welcoming, caring and compassionate, joyfully celebrating the Lord while sharing His love and grace.



A Note From Your Pastor:

A Joyous Eastertide

Friends, as we journey through Eastertide on our way to Pentecost, I want to share the words of a lovely 17th Century Easter Carol with you:

*The whole bright world rejoices now:
Hilariter! Hilariter!
The birds do sing on every bough:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Then shout beneath the racing skies:
Hilariter! Hilariter!
To him who rose that we might rise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Hilariter! Hilariter!
Our God most high, our joy, our boast
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

May your Eastertide be one of joy and peace, as together we celebrate the Risen Lord.



*Soli Deo Gloria,
Pastor Susan*

MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Your Session did not meet in March due to various scheduling challenges, but stay tuned to the May Beacon to read all about the April Session meeting. As always, members of Session are always available and willing to talk with you about any questions or concerns you may have about the ministry and mission of FPC Wildwood.

-- Rev. Susan Takis, Session Moderator

IT'S APRIL - EASTER: THE NEW COVENANT

It hasn't been so long since we were celebrating Christmas – The Birth of Christ. Just 60 days ago we were singing carols, heralding the arrival of the Savior, and reveling in the promise of the Messiah's arrival: salvation.

And before we knew it February arrived and with it Lent. Our focus in worship now was on Easter and all it promised. It again became a time of anticipation. We would be thinking about Christ's journey, the passions of Holy Week, and finally the celebration of the Resurrection: Easter.

Easter! The promise of Christ's birth is now delivered! Through His birth, life, death, and resurrection, we have been handed a new covenant. A covenant that is open to all who would believe. A covenant that gave us access to God, our Father, through Christ.

Christ delivered on His promise. Have you? Have you kept up on those promises you made at the New Year? Have you enrolled in a Bible study, volunteered at an agency, or kept up on your pledge to the church? Take stock of where you are now, and where you promised to be. Be more like Christ. Deliver on your promises.

The Stewardship Team

-- The Stewardship Team



A JOYFUL NOISE! NEWS FROM THE CHOIR

*"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.
Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise." James 5:13*

In that verse you have the purpose of our choir at First Presbyterian Church. Throughout the Church year, and particularly during Lent, the choir serves to express through music the love, sacrifice, suffering, and joy of Christ and His people. We have sung of His Majesty, his suffering, the waving of palms as he entered Jerusalem,

the sorrowful sight of Him on the cross, and on Easter Sunday we will joyously celebrate His resurrection! It is our prayer and hope that the choir has helped all of you feel the emotions of the season. A Blessed Easter to you all!

-- Connie Emery

FPC WILDWOOD EMAIL PRAYER PARTNERS



Would you like to join with Pastor Susan and others in our congregation in praying daily for those in our congregation who ask for prayers? You will receive weekly emails listing the Sunday prayer concerns, as well as other prayer concerns as they arise during the week. As a "prayer partner," you commit to praying daily for those who have requested prayer. To be added to the prayer chain as a prayer partner and/or to ask for a prayer concern to be sent, please email Pastor Susan at susanfpcw@gmail.com, or Janet at fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com.

THANKS TO FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS!

Submitted By Bev Eckert

First of all, I'd like to give giant kudos to all those who have volunteered to provide fellowship over the last several months. Individuals, our Health Ministry group and Sunshine Seekers (who took care of the whole month of January) – have given generously of their time and talents.

We still fall short of filling up our volunteer calendar each month. A couple of reasons have been suggested. Perhaps you are worried that you might be left doing it **all** and have no idea what to do. There will always be at least one experienced person there to guide you (Neville and Dawn Cullen have made this their personal ministry). When they are absent, another experienced individual will be there. Also, I send out a “work sheet” to each person beforehand so you'll know exactly what is expected.

In addition, some may find doing this on a regular basis is a financial burden. Mostly, we need **people!** We have a healthy fellowship fund (from weekly contributions) to help you with the cost of providing goodies if you need it. Just save your receipts and mention this to Neville or me.

If every individual/couple volunteered only twice in any calendar year --- we'd be in great shape. Unfortunately, the few must pick up the slack and I'm fearful they will get burned out.

Please prayerfully consider adding your name to the fellowship calendar, which is on the bulletin board next to Susan's office. Also, I will have a clipboard at fellowship each week for sign-ups; and if you have questions, please contact me at beveckert@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for your help.



These photos of a recent fellowship hour were taken by Richard Barnes, and show the camaraderie that exists among us when we meet after church services.



Top left: Kim and Jeff Stuchell with their granddaughter, Alexa; Top Center, Michele Topolnicki, Carol Wallen, Beverly Eckert; Far Right, Dawn and Neville Cullen; Bottom Left, regular attendees (Welcome!), Bottom right, Louise Fahey, Donna Madison, Barbara England





Written by Jan Coleman



Did you know that Charles Eugene Hill has attended First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood since 1984? Every Sunday our Gene, wearing a suit and tie with a train tie clip and highly polished shoes, sits in the third row on the window aisle on the piano side. I commented about his shoes one Sunday, and Gene replied, "I have polished my shoes ever since I was in the Army."

After high school, Gene worked for Seaboard Railroad out of Wildwood. He married his sweetheart Harriette in 1950 and was drafted on his 21st birthday. After 18 weeks of basic training, Gene went to Seattle where he was shipped out to Japan for combat training. "They cut my hair, gave me shots, deloused me completely so that I could wear my uniform without washing it for six months and not get sick. That is what they said," Gene raised his eyebrows as he chuckled at the foolishness of that Army statement.



"We were supposed to land at Inchon but the city was bombed the day before, and we were an unarmed ship, so we went on the Pusan.

"I was sent to a tent and sat by myself for quite a while until another man walked in. I asked him where he was from, and Don said, 'Florida in a little town you never heard of.' I said, 'Try me.' 'Center Hill.' He said. 'Well, I'll be.... I'm from Wildwood. Imagine both of us from the same county.' More men came into the tent. All of us had worked on some railroad, and that is what I did for 16 months to the day in Korea.

"When I got home in 1954, Harriette and I started our family, two sons and a daughter, and I went to school and studied railroad transportation. It took me 10 years as a brakeman, a

flagman and a conductor to know all the railyards on my Florida routes." Gene retired in 1992 after 42 years and eight months working on the railroad. "I never got hurt even when I had to jump off the train going 15 m.p.h. to switch the tracks," Gene continued. "Luckily the train slowed down to 5 or ten m.p.h. for me to jump back on!" As a Korean war veteran, Gene was active in the American Legion and received best Legionnaire Award of the Year in 1981 and 1989.



Gene liked to hunt deer in Colorado with his railroad buddies, and he enjoyed fishing in fresh and salt water. For thirty years during the hot Florida summers, he took his family to the Smoky Mountains for two weeks.



During this time Harriette's father Harrison Meeks asked Gene to go to church with him at the old FPC church. "I pledged to fix up the old church to rent and be a source of income, and I pledged again to build a new church which I worship in every Sunday. It's important to me to help the church."

To see Gene coming into church, to see and hear greetings from all who are so fond of him, and to see him worshipping every Sunday is an inspiration to us all. Thank you, and God bless you Gene!



Thank You !! for your participation in "A Bucket List"!	
For four weeks, we have been exploring an informal program regarding "Elders in Transition". Our lives change as we gradually get older and we need to be aware of the very important things that need to be taken care of:	
Week 1:	"Living and Aging with Happiness"
Week 2:	"Legal" paperwork for the state of Florida
Week 3:	"Financial aspects of life"
Week 4:	We explored "Funerals" and "What to do with your stuff"
I hope that all of this information was very helpful.	
Lynn Barnes	



Our oldest member, Merlin Biebesheimer, holds our youngest one, Alexa, at a recent church service. Alexa is the granddaughter of the Stuchells.

... Photo by Jan Coleman

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper, Thursday, March 29

To those of you who have signed up to bring soup or bread, please bring your food to the fellowship hall no later than 4:30 p.m. Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 30 The church office will be closed.



Easter Sunday Flower Cross, Sunday, April 1

On Easter Sunday, please bring flowers from your garden to place on our sanctuary flower cross before service so that it will be full of blossoms of color on the day of resurrection!

This year we will place the cross on the lawn after the service to share with our community.

Also, please note that there will be no fellowship hour following Easter Sunday worship.



2018 FLOWER CALENDAR The 2018 flower calendar is hanging on the wall by the side door leading from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall. If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for a special occasion or in honor/memory of someone, reserve your Sunday on the calendar by signing your name.

PROCEDURE FOR ORDERING FLOWERS

1. Place your name on the list, along with the name of the person being honored or memorialized.
2. FPC Wildwood has established an account with Southern Comfort Florals in Wildwood, so you will not have to pay tax on your order. You may either contact them by telephone or go talk to them to discuss what you want. Contact information is:

SOUTHERN COMFORT FLORALS, LLC

109 N. Main Street
Wildwood, FL 34785
Brian K. May, Owner/Designer
(352)399-2989

southerncomfortflorals@yahoo.com

www.southerncomfortflorals.com

3. They will give you a receipt for your order (or send it to us).
4. Southern Comfort Florals will deliver the flowers to the Soup Kitchen on Saturday and they will be kept in their refrigerator overnight and brought into the church on Sunday morning.
5. Please make your check or payment to the church and place it in the Treasurer's mail box. This will not be a tax-deductible item. Please note on the check that it is for flowers.
6. The florist will send the church a monthly statement and the treasurer will pay them directly.



WORSHIP NOTE:

The Worship Team works with loving thought to provide a worship service to praise and glorify GOD.

This past month (March) the worship team worked on the services for the Easter season. Anyone who would be interested in ushering, please see Michele Loser.



– Margaret Clarke

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



“You shall be called repairers of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in” – Isaiah 58

In this verse God issues a call and a challenge – to love more deeply by sharing what we have with those in need.

During this season of Lent, please join with Presbyterians around the world by participating in the **One Great Hour of Sharing**. It is the single and largest way that Presbyterians come together to help provide for a better world by sharing what we have with our neighbors in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing is our direct response to the ways in which God has called us to share in Isaiah 58. This offering helps **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** work within communities recovering from natural and human caused disasters. It also helps the **Presbyterian Hunger Program** to take action to alleviate hunger, care for God’s creation and to address the systemic causes of poverty so that all may be fed. The **Self Development of People** program partners with communities to respond to oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. So, on **Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018** please plan to be a part of the One Great Hour of Sharing and give a heartfelt gift that supports projects in over 100 countries around the world. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Candice Ulrich

GINGIVITIS AND PERIODONTITIS



In gingivitis, the gums become red, swollen and can bleed easily. Gingivitis can usually be reversed with daily brushing and flossing, and regular cleaning by a dentist or dental hygienist. This form of gum disease does not include any loss of bone and tissue that hold teeth in place.

When gingivitis is not treated, it can advance to periodontitis. In periodontitis, gums pull away from the teeth and form spaces (called "pockets") that become infected. The body's immune system fights the bacteria as the plaque spreads and grows below the gum line. Bacterial toxins and the body's natural response to infection start to break down the bone and connective tissue that hold teeth in place. If not treated, the bones, gums, and tissue that support the teeth are destroyed. The teeth may eventually become loose and may have to be removed....*Source, NIH*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m.; Sunday Mornings, 9:15 a.m. [NOTE: new times in effect until after Easter Sunday]

Blood Pressure Clinic

1st Sunday of each Month, 11:30 – 12:00 noon

2 Cents A Meal Offering

2nd Sunday of each Month

Potluck Fellowship

3rd Sunday of each Month, After Worship

DEADLINE REMINDERS: Beacon and Bulletin Submissions: Remember to submit your articles for the Beacon and/or announcements for the bulletin directly to fpcmedia203@gmail.com. Beacon articles are due by the 4th Friday of the month and bulletin articles are due the Tuesday before the Sunday your announcement will appear. Announcements will run for three weeks, and may be edited for length.

Sunday, April 1	Choir Practice Communion Blood Pressure Clinic in Fellowship Hall	9:30am 10:30am 11:30am
Wednesday, April 4	Choir Practice	6:15pm
Sunday, April 8	Choir Practice Two Cents a Meal	9:30am 10:30am
Monday, April 9	Deacon's Meeting	2:00pm
Tuesday, April 10	PW Tea	12:30
Wednesday, April 11	Choir Practice	6:15pm
Thursday, April 12	PW Circle	2:00pm
Sunday, April 15	Choir Practice Worship Potluck Lunch	9:30am 10:30am After Worship
Tuesday, April 17	Finance Team Meeting (rescheduled from 4/11) Ladies Luncheon* Session Meeting	10:30am 11:30am 6:00pm
Wednesday, April 18	PW Circle Mission Team Meeting (rescheduled from 4/4) (Or possibly at Ulrich's House at 10:30am) Choir Practice	10:00am 12:00pm 6:15pm
Sunday, April 22	Choir Practice Worship	9:30am 10:30am
Tuesday, April 24	PW Circle	2:00pm
Wednesday, April 25	Choir Practice	6:15pm
Sunday, April 29	Choir Practice Worship	9:30am 10:30am



*Our next luncheon will be Tuesday, April 17, at Takis Restaurant in Lady Lake. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. All ladies are invited; contact Carol Norton, 352-748-3459 or cjln540@gmail.com for reservations.