



The

Beacon

December 2017

First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood
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Wildwood, Florida 34785
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Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 Noon

Staff Directory

Pastor: The Rev. Susan Takis
Secretary: Janet Cressman
Accompanist: Eunice Mosier
Music Director: Sheila Phillips

Session Members:

Barb England John Ulrich
Louise Fahey Robin Ladd
Tom McKee Courtland Munroe



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.** January 2018 deadline is Friday, December 22. 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: Waiting



Each year as we enter the Advent Season, I feel a deep sense of anticipation for all that is to come - time with family, special worship services, festive caroling and gift giving, yummy food and cookies - especially cookies!

And yet, the anticipation I feel each Advent season is about so much more. For it is about the promises found in that tiny babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in that manger where each year we gather around and wait...wait for all that is good, all that is promised...all that we hope for and believe in. Waiting...for all God promises through Jesus Christ.

I want to share an Advent poem with you, my dear church family, that I find especially meaningful. It is written by John Howell.

*A tiny jewel of light
dances on the edge of the horizon;
a solitary star before sunrise
glimmers a promise of dawn
at the end of the world’s blight.
It is the light of the world,
“Emmanuel” (God-with-us),
the Promised One.*

*Come to us, Emmanuel!
We have seen your light and gather here
awaiting the day of your coming.*

May your Advent season be a time of blessing and anticipation, as you await the Promised One.

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Susan





SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

November Session Highlights

In an effort to keep our congregation informed, below are highlights from the November 2017 Stated Session Meeting:

- ~ **Shared** congregational prayer concerns and participated in an opening devotional and prayer led by Ruling Elder Louise Fahey.
- ~ **Approved** minutes from the October 17, 2017 Stated Meeting of the Session.
- ~ **Approved** the reception of Mark Owings into FPC membership by letter of transfer from Perry Hall Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, MD.
- ~ **Approved** the letter of transfer requests of Harvey & Marge to North Presbyterian Church of North Tonawanda, NY and Judy Pyles to New Covenant United Methodist Church of The Villages, FL.
- ~ **Heard** a report from the Session Moderator. The training of our new elders went well. The Soup Kitchen will be installing, at their expense, four security cameras like the cameras we have on the church building. Committee chair training will be held in January. The moderator led the session through a “Healthy Congregation” Triangulation exercise.
- ~ **Approved** the election of Louise Fahey to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioner at the December 5, 2017 Stated Meeting of the Central Florida Presbytery.
- ~ **Approved** the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held on January 28, 2018 following the worship service.
- ~ **Heard** from John Ulrich, chair of the Finance Team, who reports favorable financial news at this point in the year.
- ~ **Accepted** the 2016 FPC audit report, which was very positive about the new protocols and procedures the finance team has put in place.
- ~ **Approved** various motions brought forward from the personnel committee, and approved various supply preachers for upcoming dates Rev. Takis will be away.
- ~ **Discussed** ideas for a possible fundraiser for the Wildwood Middle High School and discussed church safety.
- ~ **Received and discussed** written reports from the various committees of the church.
- ~ **Closed** the meeting in prayer led by Ruling Elder Robin Ladd.

Highlights submitted by Rev. Susan Takis, Session Moderator



IT'S DECEMBER – IS IT THE END OF THE YEAR, OR A NEW BEGINNING?

December! It's finally arrived. The time when we get ready for our most significant social holiday of the year: Christmas. No other holiday grabs hold of our imagination and heart like Christmas. It permeates everything we see and hear for the next 24 days. We are inundated with one single fact: CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!

And right on its heels is the end of the calendar year and the start of a new one. In fact, it is hard not to consider that Christmas Day and New Years Day mark the beginning and end of the holiday season. So in like manner: NEW YEARS DAY IS COMING!!

But Christmas Day is more than the beginning of the holiday season. It is the beginning of a new time, a new world, for all believers. It marks the day, that God, Our Father, sent us a gift: The Savior! It marks the day we were given new hope, that through the life of this Child, we might be redeemed in the eyes of God.

So, as we celebrate in our church and in our homes, let us keep in mind that Christmas is the gift of a new beginning. Make it one in your heart and in your life. Use this holiday as a time to do, or undo, all the things you promised during the past year. Keep all the promises, commitments, and pledges you made. And following in the footsteps of God, Our Father, make it a time of love and new beginnings.

How will you respond?

-- The Stewardship Committee

Effective Team Communications



The Media Committee is now the Communications Team:
L to R: Jan Coleman, Publicity; Marge O’Kane, Editor, The
Beacon; Dru Movizzo, Chairman;
Donna Madison, Bulletin Board,
and Nancy Purnell, Website

These ladies have been working hard to convey FPC’s message to the congregation as well as to local and national communities. They are developing a strategic communications plan to help keep the congregation and community informed and engaged with us. We are very lucky to have a Communications Team since most churches don’t have one.



JOYFUL NOISE NOTES FROM SHEILA

These past eight years have gone at supersonic speed. What a blessing it has been for me to be so involved in the music program at First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood. Worshipping with such a warm and loving congregation has lifted me to a higher level in my spiritual life. I know all of you will continue to feel God's presence each day of your life, and His music will help you feel His presence.

Serving God through music has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. When Bill and I came to this church over eight years ago, it was my plan to sit with him, in church, for the first time. It was definitely God's hand guiding me to this place at this time in my life. Bill encouraged me to help with the choir program; you know the next phase of this story. It has been a loving, rewarding, fantastic, beautiful musical journey. Thank God and thank you!

Choir, you hold a very special place in my years as a choir director. We started eight years ago with eight members, and the choir has steadily grown in numbers since then. The most rewarding growth; however, for me as a musician and director, is your growth musically.

I pray you continue to serve this congregation with your time and talents in music. God has so richly blessed us, and you have so generously given back to this congregation by praising Him through music.

We are fortunate to have instrumentalists who have added a depth musically to the program. We appreciate your contribution. Eunice Mosier, you are such a lovely, sweet lady and you give so much to this congregation. You have served with us with such beauty and grace.

My love and appreciation will continue to be with all of you. Keep a song in your hearts, but also on your lips. God be with each of you.



Sheila Phillips, Choir Director

December Worship Services at FPC

Join us for worship during Advent & Christmas!

This is a perfect time of the year to invite your friends to worship with you here at FPC!



December 3, 10:30 a.m., 1st Sunday of Advent: Communion; Rev. Bob Merrell preaching.

December 10, 10:30 a.m., 2nd Sunday of Advent: Rev. Susan Takis preaching.

December 17, 10:30 a.m., 3rd Sunday of Advent: A Service of Lessons & Carols - the chancel choir will lead a service based on the traditional Lessons & Carols service of King's College, Cambridge. We will also honor our fabulous choir director, Sheila Phillips, both during worship and during the potluck luncheon following worship, as she heads into a well-deserved retirement.

December 24, 10:30 a.m., 4th Sunday of Advent: Rev. Susan Takis

December 24, 6:00 p.m., Christmas Eve: Traditional Candlelight Communion

Rev. Susan Takis preaching.

December 31, 10:30 a.m., 1st Sunday after Christmas Day: Rev. Karen preaching.



preaching.
Service.

Estes

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 28 following worship, when we will have the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will hear from various committees about their work in 2017 and their dreams for 2018, hear a report from the Finance Team about the 2018 budget, vote on Rev. Takis' 2018 Terms of Call, and the Session will be available to answer any questions from the congregation.



For a number of years FPC has had an "Angel Tree". The children who are blessed by it are all in foster care homes and have special medical needs. To participate in this mission, choose a tag from the Tree, purchase the gift listed on the tag, wrap the gift and attach the tag to the gift. Place the gift under the Tree. If you are not able to get out and shop but would like to participate, there are monetary tags on the Tree. Please make your checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood with a notation "Angel Tree".

Special dates to remember are: November 26th, Angel tags will be available; December 10th, all monetary gifts need to be turned in; and December 17th, all wrapped presents *with Angel tags attached* should be placed under the Tree.

Contact Kim Stuchell if you have any questions: 352-748-1462



There are still car magnets available for anyone who would like one. Contact Jan Coleman at skiladymso@yahoo.com for information.



Planning Your Doctor Visit

A Partnership

How well you and your doctor talk to each other is one of the most important parts of getting good health care. Unfortunately, talking with your doctor isn't always easy. In the past, the doctor typically took the lead and the patient followed. Today, a good patient-doctor relationship is a partnership. You and your doctor can work as a team. *Source, NIH*

Doctor's visits can be overwhelming and having a Health Advocate with you may be helpful in understanding and processing what information they may give you. We have a process that is available if you should want to have someone attend a visit with you. Below is an outline as to how we would work with you during the Health Advocate Process.

*You would call Dru Movizzo (633-1534) with your request, and an intake sheet is completed.

*During a visit with Dru they would:

Discuss your needs

Review the materials on "Talking With Your Doctor"

Leave a booklet and forms with you.

*Then an Advocate would be assigned to you.

*The Advocate will then contact you.

*It will be helpful if you could complete the forms left with you.

*Your Advocate meets with you prior to your Doctor's appointment to review the completed forms.

*An introduction to your doctor is beneficial to creating a cooperative atmosphere during the visit.

*Your Advocate completes the visit form during the appointment.

*After the appointment, your Advocate will discuss the completed form and leave it with you.

*The completed form can then be reviewed and referred to as needed.

Your health and wellbeing are vital to get the most out of our active lives. Maybe a Health Advocate can help.



We received the following important information from Michael Elmore regarding the Presbyterian's Day in the Grove:

"Due to the terrible greening disease and the effects of hurricane Irma, we are left with only one grove for this year's Presbyterian's Day in the Grove. The Hubbard Grove is located at:

9000 Hubbard Place

Orlando, FL 32819

"I am very sorry for this inconvenience if you had planned on going to the grove in Crescent City. This is still going to be a great event so we hope everyone can make it!"

DATE: 12/09/2017

TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 12: p.m.

LOCATION: Hubbard Grove



LADIES! The December Ladies Luncheon is Tuesday, December 19 at 11:30, at Nancy Lopez Restaurant. Please call Carol Norton (352-748-3459) or email her at cjln540@gmail.com to make a reservation.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON: Mark your calendars! Thursday, December 21, at 11:30 a.m. at Mallory Country Club. Please join us; guests welcome! Contact Frank Purnell at 352-205-6810 for reservations.



MEMBER 50132764

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Choir Rehearsals	Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday Mornings, 9:45 a.m.
Blood Pressure Clinic	1 st Sunday of each Month, 11:30 – 12:00 noon
2 Cents A Meal Offering	2 nd Sunday of each Month
Potluck Fellowship	3 rd Sunday of each Month, After Worship

DEADLINE Beacon and Bulletin Submissions: Remember to submit your articles for the Beacon and/or announcements for the bulletin directly to fpcmedia203@gmail.com.
REMINDERS: 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, December 3	Choir Practice Communion Blood Pressure Clinic in Fellowship Hall	9:30am 10:30am 11:30am
Wednesday, December 6	Worship Committee Mission Committee Finance Committee (at Ulrich's House)	9:00am 10:30am 10:30am
Sunday, December 10	Choir Practice; group photo follows Two Cents A Meal	9:30am 10:30am
Monday, December 11	Deacon's Meeting	2:00pm
Tuesday, December 12	Session Meeting	6:30pm
Thursday, December 14	Communications Meeting PW Circle	10:00am 2:00pm
Sunday, December 17	Choir Practice Worship/Joy Offering/Lessons & Carols Potluck Lunch	9:45am 10:30am After Worship
Tuesday, December 19	Ladies Luncheon	11:30, Nancy Lopez
Wednesday, December 20	PW Circle	10:00am
Thursday, December 21	Men's Luncheon at Mallory CC	11:30am
Sunday, December 24	Choir Practice Worship Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	9:45am 10:30am 6:00pm
Monday, December 25	Church Office Christmas Holiday	Closed
Tuesday, December 26	Church Office Christmas Holiday	Closed
Thursday, December 28	Health Ministry Committee Morning Prayer	9:00am 10:00am
Sunday, December 31	Choir Practice Worship	9:45am 10:30am