



# The Beacon

February 2018



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  
Interim Music Director: Connie Emery

**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 Marilyn Englesbe  
Janie Kirkpatrick



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 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the prior month or sooner if at all possible.** March 2018 deadline is Friday, February 23. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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: Why Do We as Presbyterians Observe Lent?***

When I was a little girl, I was always fascinated when my Catholic friends would come to school with ashes on their forehead on Ash Wednesday or would give up something that was very special to them during the long 40-days of the Lenten season. As an adult, I am very thankful that Lent has made its way back into the Protestant tradition in many mainline denominations. Lent is loaded with possibilities for deep spiritual formation and discipleship. Author Wes Vanderlugt sites three

reasons why observing Lent is beneficial to our faith journeys:

***Lent structures our time according to redemptive rhythms.*** The way we structure our time says volumes about what we value. As Eugene Peterson says: “Hours and days, weeks and months and years, are the very stuff of holiness.” Weekly Sabbath is one of the primary ways we can harness our time for holiness and structure our weeks according to redemptive rhythms. Another way is to observe carefully the church calendar, experiencing the passing of time according to the celebration of Christ’s life and the festivals, feasts and fasts of the church. Lent gets us into this rhythm and helps us remember that all time is God’s time, with Jesus Christ at the center.

***Lent helps us develop responsive attentiveness to the Triune God.*** Prayer and contemplation play a central role in observing Lent. Whether individually or corporately, a sustained season of prayer and contemplation enables us to listen to the Spirit speaking through Scripture and others believers. Lent is a time, therefore, to develop responsive attentiveness to the Triune God through prayer and for the purpose of following Jesus more faithfully.

***Lent connects our Christian practice with the life of the whole church.*** We often think of our spiritual formation in individual terms: *my* prayers, *my* Bible reading, *my* fasting. Something important happens, however, when we realize our connectedness to millions of other Christians engaged in the same practices. This testifies to unity of God’s people: we are one body with one Spirit and one hope because of our one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, and one God (Ephesians 4:4-6). So as we begin to restructure our time and develop responsive attentiveness to the Triune God, we are united to Christians around the world. I invite you to begin this Lenten journey together with your brothers and sisters in Christ on Wednesday, February 14 at 6pm in the sanctuary as we focus our hearts on Christ and celebrate communion and the imposition of ashes.

*Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Susan*



## JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*In an effort to keep our congregation informed, below are highlights from the January 16, 2018, Stated Session Meeting:*

- ~ **Shared** congregational prayer concerns and participated in an opening devotional and prayer led by Rev. Susan Takis.
- ~ **Approved** minutes from the December 16, 2017 Stated Meeting of the Session.
- ~ **Heard** a report from the Clerk of Session. Thank you notes from the staff for their Christmas gifts were passed around.
- ~ **Heard** a report from the Session Moderator. She presented a rough draft for the new Session Leadership Structure and a good discussion followed. Team Leader training for all chairs of committees and Session elders will be held January 23 to cover communications, how to write minutes, how to read financial reports and submit vouchers, etc.
- ~ **Approved** the 2017 FPC Statistical Report which will be sent to the PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly.
- ~ **Approved** the 2018 FPC Budget. Thank you to the Finance Team for their hard and faithful work on this budget.
- ~ **Approved** by consent agenda the following items: 2018 Stated Meeting Dates of the Session, 2018 Communion dates, collection of the One Great Hour of Sharing and Joy Christmas offerings, Carol McCombs to serve as treasurer and Mike England to serve as assistant treasurer for 2018, congregational ask of \$16.75 per person to cover Per Capita cost, Rev. Dr. Howard Newman to preach on March 11, Health Ministry 4-week series on "Elders in Transition" to be held beginning February 25.
- ~ **Approved** Chuck Loser to serve as chair of the 2018 Congregational Nominating Team.
- ~ **Approved** the following slate to serve as FPC 2018 Corporate Officers: President Tom McKee, Vice President Carol Norton, Secretary Louise Fahey, Treasurer Carol McCombs.
- ~ **Received and discussed** written reports from the various committees of the church.
- ~ **Closed** the meeting in prayer led by Ruling Elder Louise Fahey.

*Highlights submitted by Rev. Susan Takis, Session Moderator*



### IT 'S FEBRUARY – LENTEN LOVE

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Despite the overwhelming cultural association of the month of February with Valentine's Day and as a month of love, February also marks the beginning of the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, a time of penitence and reflection. Interestingly enough, both days, Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday, occur together this year on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps there is a bit of symbolism to this occurrence other than just calendar coincidence.

When one considers the intent of penitence and repentance, it is more than an act of doing "without", or of committing to changing one's ways. It is a commitment to turn towards God. To look at our intentions and behaviors and to determine their

source of influence. Are our actions driven by cultural pressures or by God's direction and Jesus' teachings? Once we shift our focus to God and His intent in our lives, we not only repent but we also embrace the act of love; a love of God and of Jesus. What better way to celebrate the month of love. So perhaps it is more than coincidence that both days and seasons occur at the same time. The act of repentance really is an act of love.

Therefore, if you truly love your God and His Christ, show it by using your God given talents, treasures, and time. Share them with others and your church. Be a good steward of all your blessings.

-- The Stewardship Team



### ... FROM OUR DEACONS:

We Deacons are working diligently to find ways to serve the members and friends of our church with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

We have divided the list of church members and friends into six "flocks". Our goal is to be a special contact to each person in our flock and to try to stay in touch with you through calls, conversations, cards, visits, etc. While we will try to be in contact with you, we also ask that you feel free to reach out to us in times when you want someone to talk to, extra prayers for whatever reason, or just need a friend.

Another of our plans is to make a list of volunteers who would be willing to provide a meal for someone with an immediate but non-continuing need. Please contact the church office or Nancy Myers (352-391-1120) if you would be willing to help. We are also compiling information about how to access Operation Homebound and the Wildwood Soup Pantry, along with a list of commercial businesses that provide similar services on a longer term basis.

In service through Christ,

-- Nancy Myers



**SPAGHETTI DINNER**, Saturday evening, January 27<sup>th</sup>, found FPC members and friends enjoying a fine spaghetti dinner in Fellowship Hall, featuring Neville Cullen's own special spaghetti sauce. The next day, at the Sunday morning church service, Neville told us that he was overwhelmed with gratitude at the way everyone worked like a team, helping each other out and making this annual fund raiser a very special event: "There was an aura of fellowship flowing from the crowd, folks working hard together, in harmony and with love." That pretty much says it all!



## A JOYFUL NOISE!

*The Joyful Noise! 2018 Choir of The First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood*



(Photos by Richard Barnes)

Front Row: Dru Movizzo, Lona Lunden, Helen Zarzycki, Nancy Myers, Shirley Palazzo, Lucille Ruth, Carolyn Lindgren, Eunice Mosier, Rev. Susan Takis. Back Row: Donna Madison, Sheila Phillips, Vic Zarzycki, Ken Myers, Jerry Emery, Marie Erline, Connie Emery, Gloria Gray, Richard Barnes. Marge O'Kane and Beverly Eckert were not available for the group photo, so Richard took separate pictures of them, and they appear on the right. This photograph is a rare one because it includes *all*\* choir members, and is made even more special because it includes Sheila Phillips, our recently retired (after eight years!) Music Director. In January, we said our tearful good-byes, wishing her -- and Bill! -- a joyful, much deserved, retirement. \*Since this photo was taken, we've welcomed four new members! Time for another picture, Richard!!

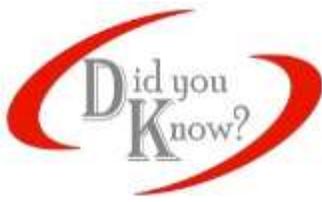


And now we're moving ahead with Connie Emery serving as our Interim Music Director. Connie has been singing with us for a number of years, and has sung in church choirs all her life. And you have heard her playing her flute so beautifully at a number of our services, showing her love and devotion to FPC.

Another long-time choir member has resigned after many, many years: Jerry Houchens. We will miss his strong tenor voice, and his closing prayers at choir practice. You won't be singing with us anymore, Jerry, but you know we will miss you as we continue God's mission in music.

-- Marge O'Kane, Editor-Alto





... that Carol and Ed McCombs met as a result of a bridge game? Carol was born and raised in Culver City, CA, which was then the "Movie Capital of the World". During summer mornings, Carol and her friends would sit at the MGM gates and get autographs of movie stars, such as, Clark Gable and June Allison. Carol's grandmother made the wardrobe for "Our Gang Comedy" series. "After Darla was finished with her clothes, my grandmother brought them home for me to wear. I loved wearing Darla's hand-me-downs."

*Written by Jan Coleman*

After graduating from UCLA, Carol taught high school business education classes until moving to Eugene, OR, where she worked for the police department. "In those days there were no policewomen, so I did matron duties for the arresting officers. I loved that job. Every day was different and exciting!" From there Carol moved to Maryland, Ohio, and then Pittsburgh, PA.

Ed grew up in Uniontown, PA, and graduated from Penn State with a degree in Civil Engineering. After two years in the Army Engineers, he worked for AMOCO Oil, and then for a division of Pullman, Inc. as a project manager.

In 1961, Ed was sent to Sydney, Australia, as Resident Manager on a large construction project, opening their office in Melbourne. In 1965, he returned to Pittsburgh. During his career Ed traveled to over 50 countries mostly related to his work. His stack of passports, many of which were the accordion type, reached to the floor!

... and the bridge game? Carol had been invited to substitute. The hostess knew a man she wanted Carol to meet. When leaving, Carol said, "No. I'm not interested." The persistent hostess had Carol and Ed meet when they double-dated later in the week. They were married in 1981.

A highlight of Carol and Ed's travels was when Carol's youngest son, who is a pilot for United, flew them to Israel and took them to dinner in Haifa. "That was a very special trip. We simply loved it." Carol said.



Carol and Ed moved to The Villages from a north hills suburb of Pittsburgh in December 2007, and soon began looking for a church. "We went to two churches, but they were too large. Then we saw an ad in the newspaper asking readers if they were looking for a church that was smaller and friendlier. We attended FPC but there was a lay preacher conducting services because Dr. Clow was ill. We did not return until Bill Kramp became pastor, and we have been here ever since."

When asked about Ed's new cochlear implant, Carol said the surgeon told them an interesting fact. "Did you know that the ear has two nerves? One is for tasting and the other one is for smiling?"



**THE FEBRUARY SUPPER CLUB DINNER** at Craft Cuisine in Ocala will take place on Thursday, February 1, and 29 of us are signed up to enjoy food and fellowship that evening! Watch for a write-up in the March Beacon about our February dining experience.



Meanwhile, please mark your calendars for our **March Supper Club dinner**, which will be at **Mesa de Noite in Ocala on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**. We went to this restaurant about a year and a half ago, and everyone who attended (there were 31 of us!) had glowing comments about the food and the service. **Watch your email** for information about the Mesa de Noite dinner in March!

If you would like to be on the Supper Club email list, just drop me a note via email: [thelistlady514@gmail.com](mailto:thelistlady514@gmail.com), or call me at 352-751-4432.

-- Rosemary Ganci



**BP CLINIC SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4** Join the Health Ministry in Fellowship Hall this Sunday following worship for the monthly BP clinic.



**ROCK OF AGES LUTHERAN CHURCH IS HOSTING A CPR RETRAINING SESSION** and has invited us to participate. Two classes will be held on February 26th: one from 9:00 am to noon and the other from 1:00 to 4 pm. If you are interested in being recertified for CPR, please contact me by February 10. The fee for the class is \$10.00 which must be paid when you register. You can come to either class but class size is limited, so please register right away. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 10.

The provider is Emergency Care Safety Institute (ECSI). This is almost identical to the course offered by the Heart Association but half the price. Wear comfortable clothing and arrive 15 minutes before to finalize any paper work. Your telephone number and email address are needed because the provider only uses email to deliver the recertification cards. Contact me at [janetmuench@yahoo.com](mailto:janetmuench@yahoo.com) or (352) 272-7617 to register or with questions.

-- Janet Muench

## SENIORS IN TRANSITION

Please come to the Sunday presentations of the "Bucket List". The first presentation is on Sunday, February 25, at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Over a four-week period, we will be exploring everything from new living arrangements to medical, financial and emotional needs. Professionals will be available to help us understand the laws of Florida.

Discover the clues to living with peace of mind, safety, love and Christian Fellowship! Plan your future before someone else has to!

Please RSVP. Contact Lynn Barnes with any questions you may have: [2004barnes@thevillages.net](mailto:2004barnes@thevillages.net), or 484-883-4821



## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Communion and Imposition of Ashes)



**LOVE INC PRESENTS "MELODY OF LOVE" THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>**. Join Love INC for this annual fundraiser on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church at the Villages, 7570 SE Highway 42, Summerfield, FL. See Rosemary Ganci for tickets (\$10) or you may contact Love INC directly at their website: [www.loveinchof.org](http://www.loveinchof.org), or 352-245-8774.



**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. The procedure for ordering flowers is on the bulletin board next to the calendar.

## CONTACT JANET IN THE OFFICE FOR .....

**NAMETAGS** If you have lost your nametag and would like to order another (or have never had one), please contact Janet in the office and she will be glad to order one for you. Your first name tag is free, but replacement name tags are \$7. Thank you so much for wearing your nametags each Sunday.

**PLEDGE ENVELOPES** If you would like to have pledge envelopes but have not received them, please contact Janet in the office and she will be glad to get them for you. If you had not had a chance to pledge for 2018, there are pledge cards on the tables by each sanctuary door.

**UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!** You should have received a copy of the latest church directory by email (or regular mail if you do not have email). If you are unable to print a copy at home, contact Janet in the office and she will be glad to print a copy for you. If you see any changes or corrections, please let Janet know. We will publish any changes in the monthly Beacon.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Choir Rehearsals	Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m.
Blood Pressure Clinic	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of each Month, 11:30 – 12:00 noon
2 Cents A Meal Offering	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each Month
Potluck Fellowship	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:fpcmedia203@gmail.com). Beacon articles are due by the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Thursday, February 1	Supper Club Dinner going to Craft Cuisine Restaurant in Ocala	5:00pm
Sunday, February 4	Choir Practice Communion Blood Pressure Clinic in Fellowship Hall	9:30am 10:30am 11:30am
Wednesday, February 7	Mission Committee Choir Practice	10:30am 6:30pm
Thursday, February 8	PW Circle	2:00pm
Sunday, February 11	Choir Practice Two Cents a Meal Annual Congregation Meeting	9:30am 10:30am Following Worship
Monday, February 12	Deacon's Meeting	2:00pm
Tuesday, February 13	Finance Meeting	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 14	Ash Wednesday Service Choir Practice	6:00pm After Worship
Thursday, February 15	Communications Team Men's Luncheon*	10:00 11:30 a.m.
Sunday, February 18	Choir Practice Worship Potluck Lunch	9:30am 10:30am After Worship
Tuesday, February 20	Ladies Luncheon** Session Meeting	11:30am 6:00pm
Wednesday, February 21	PW Circle Choir Practice	10:00am 6:30pm
Thursday, February 22	Health Committee	9:00am
Saturday, February 24	Soup Kitchen Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	8:00-11:00am
Sunday, February 25	Choir Practice Worship	9:30am 10:30am
Tuesday, February 27	PW Circle	2:00pm
Wednesday, February 28	Choir Practice	6:30pm

\*



### MEN'S LUNCHEON

The next men's luncheon will be held on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at the Glenview Country Club. Guests are welcome. For information contact Frank Purnell, 205-6810.

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### LADIES LUNCHEON

February's luncheon will be held on TUESDAY, February 20, 11:30 a.m. at Bamboo Bistro (in the same plaza as Target and Staples). For reservations, contact Carol Norton, [cjln540@gmail.com](mailto:cjln540@gmail.com), or 352-748-3459. All women of the church are invited.

