



# The Beacon

January 2018



First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood  
203 Barwick Street  
Wildwood, Florida 34785  
Website: [www.fpcwildwood.org](http://www.fpcwildwood.org)  
Phone: 352-748-2530  
E-Mail: [fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com](mailto:fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com)

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	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 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the prior month or sooner if at all possible.** February 2018 deadline is Friday, January 26. 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:*

##### *A New Year With The Lord*

A new year is about to unfold  
With new opportunities to explore  
Doors will open for new experiences  
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things  
The things of this past year  
The Lord will do new things in us  
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us  
As we put our trust in Him  
And He will guide our every step  
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts  
We find we'll be able to do  
If we look for the opportunities  
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back  
But rise up and take our place  
And be all that God wants us to be  
With a fresh touch of His grace

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May we enter the new year with a sense of hope, peace and wisdom as we look forward to all that God is calling us to do and be at First Presbyterian Church. May we walk together toward our future relying on the goodness and grace of God Almighty. May our hearts and minds be open to the joy of new discoveries and new paths, illumined by our faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. May we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in all that we do and say.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Pastor Susan



## DECEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*In an effort to keep our congregation informed, below are highlights from the December 12, 2017 Stated Session Meeting:*

- ~ **Shared** congregational prayer concerns and participated in an opening devotional and prayer led by Ruling Elder John Ulrich.
- ~ **Approved** minutes from the November 21, 2017 Stated Meeting of the Session.
- ~ **Examined** Chuck Loser and Carol Norton for ordination as Ruling Elders in the PC(USA) and examined Marilyn Englesbe for ordination as a Deacon in the PC(USA). After a wonderful discussion, their examinations were sustained and they are ready for ordination in January. Fran Simone, who is already ordained, participated in the discussion as well.
- ~ **Heard** a report from the Session Moderator. There are two church security seminars within the presbytery in the coming months and we will try to send some elders. The COLE leadership event for the presbytery will be January 20, 2018.
- ~ **Approved** the request of the moderator for Rev. Howard Newman to serve as Parish Associate at FPC beginning January 1, 2018.
- ~ **Approved** the request of the moderator for our “individually commissioned” Deacons to be organized as a “Board of Deacons” (Diaconate) per G-2.020 and for Nancy Myers to serve as moderator and Rev. Susan Takis to serve as advisor to the diaconate.
- ~ **Heard** a report from Louise Fahey, who served as Ruling Elder commissioner to the December 5 Stated Meeting of the Central Florida Presbytery.
- ~ **Heard** from John Ulrich, chair of the Finance Team, who reports favorable financial news at this point in the year. John presented the preliminary 2018 Asking Budget, which will be voted on in January.
- ~ **Approved** the request of the finance team for Michael England and John Ulrich to be placed on the Fidelity Brokerage Account to conduct business in the church’s interest.
- ~ **Approved** the request of the personnel team to hire Connie Emery to serve as Interim Musical Director for a period of three months beginning January 15, 2018.
- ~ **Received and discussed** written reports from the various committees of the church.
- ~ **Celebrated** the hard work and dedication of Courtland Munroe, who rotates off Session this year.
- ~ **Closed** the meeting in prayer led by Rev. Susan Takis.

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



### IT 'S JANUARY – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It’s January – and so a new year begins. And can you believe that its 2018? Can you remember when all the buzz was about the Millennium and the end of the world? Folks, that was 18 years ago, and the world still goes on. People and nations still go on, and sadly without any change in behavior or focus. It seems the world is in a rut or on a treadmill.

What about you? Will you continue in the same manner as in past years? Will you make the same resolutions or promises to yourself and others? Or will you dare to venture off in a new direction and commit to a new set of goals and opportunities. That’s really what awaits you in 2018, new opportunities! But how do you set off in that new direction?

My advice to you is stop doing the same-old-same old. Maybe what we do now and how we occupy our time is not in sync with God’s plan. I’ve said it before: set aside some quiet time. Pray and wait. Wait and see if there are any small signs of what God would have you do this year. Be quiet and push that pause button in your life.

Be open to seeing signs for God’s goals for the coming year through you.

Then focus on ways you can realize those goals. Plan how you will use your gifts, talents, and treasures to accomplish those goals. Now, that’s stewardship!

-- The Stewardship Team



## **THE END OF AN ERA!**

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> was Sheila Phillips' last day of an eight-year span serving as our beloved choir director. In her honor, we commissioned Lizette Murray to create a mosaic with a sacred music theme. In addition, the flowers for the service were given in Sheila's honor. And, of course (since this IS FPC!), a beautiful and yummy cake was cut and enjoyed by all!



Since Sheila and Bill are church members, we will be seeing them sitting in a pew and participating in the services with the rest of the congregation. It may take a while for Sheila to adjust to being passive instead of directing the choir, but we hope that she and Bill will relax and enjoy her well deserved retirement. We look forward to working with Connie Emery, who has accepted the position of Interim Music Director for a period of three months, beginning January 15, 2018. Her first "Joyful Noise" column appears below.

-- Marge O'Kane

## **A JOYFUL NOISE**

### **News from the Choir**



Happy New Year to all at First Presbyterian Wildwood! With the new year you will see a few changes at Sunday services. Of course, you'll notice that Sheila isn't directing the group. She will be greatly missed by all, and she leaves big shoes to fill. It is with some fear and trepidation, and a lot of love and hope that I will attempt to lead the choir through the next few months.

I have been a part of church choirs my whole adult life, as a member and instrumentalist. But this will be my first attempt at directing. I did, however, learn the basics of

directing from my mother, who directed her Presbyterian church choir. I have also sung under some amazing directors, whose methods I will utilize. The next three months will be a period of adjustment, and at the end of that time we will mutually decide if I will continue.

One other big change is that Jerry Houchens, our loyal, long-time tenor has retired from the choir. He also will be greatly missed, and I am asking all of you in church to listen to the men singing around you and let me know if you hear any prospective choir men! Shirley would love to go

back to the alto section, and Jerry Emery would like some company back there!!!

I thank the choir in advance for their understanding and cooperation, and I apologize for the late start. We had a cruise scheduled last spring that causes us to be gone the first two Sundays in January. So, I appreciate your patience, and thank all the soloists who will be covering in the meantime.

Looking forward to sharing God's love through song,

-- Connie Emery



## **MISSION/MINISTRY TEAM: 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW**

The Mission Team had a busy year in 2017 and participated in several new endeavors. The team started the year off by looking at ways to become more actively involved in mission work within our local community.

In the spring the team visited the **Community Medical Care Center in Leesburg** and the **Sozo Kids in the Ocala National Forest** to learn about the special work that both of these organizations are doing to support the local community. As a result we were able to provide financial gifts to these two organizations from the mission budget. We also maintain an on-going relationship with the **House of Hope**, and **The Haven**, and provided budget gifts to these two organizations.

In the summer we were involved in shopping for the Clothe a Kid project sponsored by **Love INC**. Several members from the congregation work with Love INC on a regular basis, and we provided a budget gift for this organization's wonderful work.

(cont'd on following page)

## Mission/Ministry Team (continued)

This year we had the honor of working more closely with the **Wildwood Middle High School** and learned of an opportunity to directly support a student who graduated in June and began to study at Yale University in Connecticut. And, we were also able to give a financial gift to the High School Band for their new band uniform fund raising campaign.

Our congregation also stepped up to come out in record numbers to support the Wildwood High School football team at their Friday night games. The evening started off with wonderful fellowship while we shared a delicious Mexican dinner together in town, and then we all headed off to cheer the Wildcats on to victory! It was great fun and we were so pleased about the Wildcats' success under their new coach's leadership whose mantra is "Faith, Family and Football"!



Throughout the year members from our congregation supported **Operation Bless Wildwood with their cookie ministry** which provides sweet treats once a month for the teachers' weekly planning meetings. It was a nice way to show that we care about their important work with children.

In the fall the team sponsored the second **Christmas Alternative Gift Market** which provides the congregation with an opportunity to personally support three missions. This year we raised \$1,500 for the Wildwood Middle High School Clothing Closet, the Community Medical Care Center in Leesburg, and the Sozo Kids of the Ocala National Forest.

As the year 2017 comes to an end, the Mission Team thanks God for His great blessing upon our congregation in providing us with leadership and resources to continue to find ways to do His loving work in our community. And with that said we look forward to an even better year in 2018 wherein we find new ways to be an even stronger presence in this lovely part of God's world.

-- Candice Ulrich, Chair, Mission/Ministry Team



## ANGEL TREE MISSION Mending Broken Wings

### FPC'S 2017 ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Thank you to all who bought gifts or contributed money to this year's Angel Tree project, coordinated by Kim Stuchell. Below is a note from Kim as well as some pictures:



*Dear Church Family,*

*The foster care reps who bring our gifts to foster children in need are so very appreciative of our congregation's generosity and asked that I convey that to you.*

*Also, thank you to our pastor, our session, and our worship and mission committees for allowing this ministry to continue. Each year it warms my heart to see the generosity of our congregation reaching out to these children. We are the only sponsors that they have for Christmas, so they truly wouldn't have much if not for the love and generosity of our congregation. And for this they are extremely grateful! As am I!!! Thanks again --*



*Blessings, Kim Stuchell*

## OSTEOPOROSIS



The best exercise for your bones is the weight-bearing kind, which forces you to work against gravity. Some examples of weight-bearing exercises include:



- weight training
- walking
- hiking
- dancing
- tennis
- climbing stairs

jogging  
SOURCE: NIH

## WHY I QUIT GOING TO SPORTS EVENTS!



Saturday is the only day I have to sleep.

The seats are too hard.

I want to relax, but everyone else expects me to get into the spirit of the game.



I don't like the rules of the game. They are too strict and out-moded. I think the players should be permitted to make up their own rules as the game progresses.

They're always asking for money. It costs me something every time I go. I think someone other than myself should pay for the stadium facilities, the salaries of the coaches etc.



The band and the cheerleaders use new tunes and yells. I prefer the good old standbys.

I can listen to the game on the radio without getting involved in person.

I saw too many games as a child. If you've seen one, you've seen them all.



*Contributed by Donna Madison*

## SENIORS IN TRANSITION

Starting on **February 25, 2018**, there will be a four Sunday presentation on "The Transition to A New Stage Of Life." It will be held at 9:00 AM Sunday mornings, before our regular church service, in the Fellowship Hall.

Come to hear experts on Legal Matters, Health Issues, Down Sizing, Funeral Arrangements, and Talking To Your Adult Children. This will help you plan your future, before someone else has to do it!

-- Lynn Barnes

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Choir Rehearsals	Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday Mornings, 9:45 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.

Monday, January 1	New Year Holiday	Office Closed
Sunday, January 7	Communion/Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders and Deacons Blood Pressure Clinic in Fellowship Hall	10:30am 11:30am
Monday, January 8	Deacon's Meeting	2:00pm
Tuesday, January 9	PW Circle (rescheduled from December)	2:00pm
Wednesday, January 10	Finance Committee	10:00am
Thursday, January 11	Soup Kitchen Board Meeting PW Circle	11:00am 2:00pm
Sunday, January 14	Two Cents A Meal	10:30am
Tuesday, January 16	Session Meeting	6:30pm
Wednesday, January 17	PW Circle	10:00am
Thursday, January 18	Communications Meeting Ladies Luncheon*	10:00am 12:00pm
Sunday, January 21	Choir Practice Worship Potluck Lunch	9:45am 10:30am After Worship
Wednesday, January 24	Worship Committee (rescheduled from 1/3)	9:00am
Thursday, January 25	Health Ministry Committee Building & Grounds	9:00am 11:00am
Saturday, January 27	Spaghetti Fundraiser	Time TBD
Sunday, January 28	Choir Practice Worship Annual Congregation Meeting	9:45am 10:30am
Tuesday, January 30	PW Circle (rescheduled from 1/23)	2:00pm



**\*LADIES!** The January Ladies Luncheon is THURSDAY, January 18, at 11:30, at Arnold Palmer Country Club. Contact Carol Norton (352-748-3459) or email her at [cjln540@gmail.com](mailto:cjln540@gmail.com) to make a reservation. All women of PCW are invited!

Editor's Note: You may have noticed the new masthead design. Thanks to Richard Barnes for the lovely photo of FPC!