



The



Beacon

SUMMER ISSUE: JULY-AUGUST 2017

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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.

September deadline is Friday, August 25. 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 Kathy Carter 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: Friendships of the Heart
One of my favorite spiritual authors is Henri Nouwen. He was a Catholic priest who taught at several theological institutes in the Netherlands and United States. He authored many books, and I have found his words to be inspirational, comforting, painful, challenging and joyful, depending on where I am in my spiritual journey when I encounter his writings.

In his book *The Inner Voice of Love* (which is actually a journal written during a painful period of his life), there is a chapter that I have been mulling over recently. It is a journal entry about friendship. Nouwen explores what it means to engage in true friendship with God at the center. Among many wonderful observations about friendship, these words of Nouwen below have caused me to really step back and evaluate myself and how I engage with others:

- ~ *Friendship becomes more and more possible when you accept yourself as deeply loved.*
- ~ *Real friends find their correspondence where both know the love of God.*
- ~ *A friendship in which heart speaks to heart is a gift from God, and no gift that comes from God is temporary or occasional.*

Nouwen ends his journal entry with this:

Dare to love and to be a real friend. The love you give and receive is a reality that will lead you closer and closer to God as well as those whom God has given you to love.

Friends, God has given this church family to each one of us as a gift. And so, I ask you today, as we enter into the long hot lazy days of summer, to ponder Nouwen’s words. Where are those moments in your relationships with others in this church family when true love and friendship occur? Where are those moments when you fall short of loving all those in this church family? What are ways in which you can be the friend God is calling you to be to others in this church family?

May we all, together, grow closer and closer to God through our friendships with each other.

[Henri J. M Nouwen, *The Inner Voice of Love*, Doubleday: New York, 1996. pp.80-1]

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Susan



IT'S JULY – TIME FOR A MID-YEAR CHECK-UP!

Well, we're at the half way mark. So, how is it going? Are you on target regarding all your new year plans and promises? How are those projects and commitments going? Perhaps it's time for a mid-year check-up.

Take the time this month to review your status before it's too late to adjust or make changes. A mid-year review can be helpful when considering many of life's issues (finances, health care, commitments, travel, projects, activities, etc.). It allows you to reassess your plans within the framework of the remaining time of year.

So again, how is it going? Have you made progress on those personal growth promises you made earlier in the year?

What about those household projects you planned in the Winter? Or perhaps it was in the Spring? Are you up to date on your pledge to the church? Have you made plans to meet that particular commitment while away on Summer vacation?

And let's go even further. Let's look into the future. Have you thought where you will be in two, five, or ten years from now? What about your will and final "arrangements"? Have you thought of the needs of your spouse? Or considered your heirs, the church, or favorite charities?

Take the time this month. See how you are doing. You'll be glad you did.

The Stewardship Committee

Worship Wise! Why do we do what we do in worship? If you have a question about worship that you have always wondered about, send Pastor Susan an email and she will try to answer the question in an upcoming *Beacon*.



...Have a "Worship Why?" ...Become "Worship-Wise!"...

July's Question: What is "ordinary time" and why do we celebrate it?

After all the drama of Lent and festivity of Eastertide, we enter a period of the church year called "ordinary time." The liturgical color is green, and this is not a coincidence, because "ordinary time" is considered the time of intentional spiritual growth. "Ordinary" in this sense does not mean "usual" or "average" but rather it means that there are no big festivals (like Lent or Easter). Therefore, this is the time (until Advent) that the church turns to scripture readings in worship that help teach us ways to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives. We focus on the life and ministry of Christ as well as the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is indeed a time of growth as we grow in gratitude and faith in God who is made known to us in Jesus Christ.

Please be sure to email Pastor Susan your worship questions so you can continue to be "Worship-Wise!"



JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

In an effort to keep our congregation informed, below are highlights from the June 20, 2017 Stated Session Meeting:



- ~ **Shared** congregational prayer concerns and participated in an opening devotional and prayer led by Ruling Elder Barb England.
- ~ **Approved** minutes from the May 9, 2017 Stated Meeting of the Session.
- ~ **Approved** reception into membership of the following individuals by letter of transfer: Ken & Maude Hall, Carolyn Lindgren, John Mercurio, and Ginger Jacobs (affiliate member).
- ~ **Heard** a report from the Session Moderator about the recent Discovery class, the good work of the deacons and upcoming summer goals for the moderator.

(cont'd)

- ~ **Heard** from the chair of the Finance Committee, Bruce Williams who reports positive financial news at this point in the year.
- ~ **Approved** a request from the finance committee to move \$20,000 from the operating fund checking account into a one-year CD.
- ~ **Approved** the “Financial Framework Policy” submitted by the finance committee which clearly lays out policies and procedures for many of the financial functions in the church.
- ~ **Approved** the “FPCW Funeral & Memorial Service Reception Policy” submitted by the deacons.
- ~ **Approved** a request from the congregational nominating committee to hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, July 9, 2017 at 11:30am for the purpose of electing one ruling elder to fill the vacancy in the session class of 2018.
- ~ **Discussed and concurred** with the worship committee’s recommendation that we wait at least one more year before implementing a second service for January - March, as our attendance numbers are not consistently at the 80% mark, which is typically when a second service needs to begin being considered.
- ~ **Received** written reports from the various committees of the church

Highlights submitted by Rev. Susan Takis, Session Moderator

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Presbyterian Women 2017-2018 Bible Study

Pastor Susan would like to start a PW Circle (or two or three) this fall! For those of you who may not be familiar with PW, it is the national women's organization of our denomination. We will meet once a month for fellowship, prayer and Bible study (September - May). This year's study is "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews." Pastor Susan will teach the Bible study; all you have to do is commit to participating! Day, location and time will be determined later. If you are interested or want to know more about it, please contact Pastor Susan or Lizette Murray, or sign up on the list in front of the pulpit.



OUR FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

Not many churches can match our participation in small groups. About 80% of our church family is involved in one of our several groups. Each group decides how often they will meet, typically once a month. As a group, they also decide the format for their group which is most often a social group, and they decide where to meet, and if and when they want to add new members. The most often asked question - “is this a Bible study group?” If that is what the members want, it can be, but generally no. (However, please see the next report from one of our groups which is doing something similar and sounds very interesting). We seek to promote friendships and to practice our church mission statement of caring about one another and sharing God’s love.

In addition to being rewarding, it is hoped that our groups will find time to do a project for the church or community from time to time. One thing that is very much appreciated is to help out with the fellowship time after church. Please consider having your group help Neville for a month. It only takes four of you a week. If you are interested in joining or learning more about our Friendship Groups please contact Nancy Purnell 408-2826 or speak with Pastor Susan.

SUNSHINE SEEKERS

One of our rewarding small groups is the Sunshine Seekers, a group of 21 persons including snowbirds and cruisers, which meets the second Monday each month at 6:30 PM. We have a variety of study and fellowship events. The communications person for our small group is Bev Eckert and the study leader is Ken Pyles.

We usually meet in homes, although we have occasional outings at restaurants and special events. Our topic this year is "World Religions". In February and March, we studied Hinduism; in April we visited St. Augustine.

In May we had a great discussion with Buddhists, Doug Dwyer and Bill Klein, from The Villages; in June and September we are studying Islam, including a meeting with Imam Zafir Sabawi of Ocala in September; in October we will study Judaism with a visit to Temple Shalom. In November we will study Christianity, and in December we will have our annual Christmas caroling to shut-ins.



The JOY Fellowship Group

Thank you to the members of the JOY Fellowship Group who organized and executed such a fun and yummy corn boil on Sunday, June 25! Our tummies were fed and our hearts were full with good food and fellowship. Your church family knows it took a lot of work on your part, and we appreciate all of you!

Pastor Susan

And speaking of the Corn Boil, here are a few photos from the event ...



Jane Corder, Neville Cullen, and Peggy Williams



Ken, Judy and David Pyles



Far left: a friend of Rock of Ages; Carol Norton, and Marilyn Englesbe

* * * * *



We bid Good Luck and God Speed to ...

Bob Williams, our oldest member at age 98, has moved back to the Woodlands, Texas, a few weeks ago. We will miss him! And, as we say goodbye to Bob, we welcome new members to our congregation ...

Welcome New Members! (by Jan Coleman)



Newest Members (left to right): Ken and Maude Hall, Carolyn Lindgren, and John Mercurio; also Ginger Jacobs (no photo available, but we'll try to catch her for the next issue! Photo by Richard Barnes).

Ken and Maude Hall come from the upstate New York town of Penn Yan, which is the abbreviation for Pennsylvania Yankee. They have also lived in Avon, NY; Columbus, OH; New Albany, IN; Lawrenceburg, KY; and now in the Village of Pennecamp.

During their years of employment, Maude was an office coordinator for a hospital, an architect, and a driving school. Ken was an engineer, a quality and a manufacturing manager for LEXMARK and ABB.

When asked how they found out about our church, Ken said that they looked in the ads in the Daily Sun, the one-inch ad and the two-column, two-inch ad. Pastor Susan helped Maude and Ken become members with her sermons and by the way she conducted the service. The convenient location and lots of friendliness also played a big part in their decision.

Maude's interests are golfing, sewing, puzzling, walking, board games and – she especially likes hats! Ken fills his time with golfing, shuffleboard, walking, exercising, reading his NOOK and “driving meals” once a day for the Soup Kitchen.

Carolyn Lindgren is originally from Akron, Ohio, “the rubber capitol of the world”, she said. She has lived in Cincinnati, OH; San Antonio, TX; Dearborn, MI; Miami, FL; and now The Villages.

During Carolyn's career of nursing, she earned her Ph.D at the University of Texas-Austin. She taught collegiate nursing at the University of Texas-San Antonio, at Wayne State University in Detroit, at University of Miami where she was also the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Before retirement, Carolyn was a nurse researcher for Baptist Health, a conglomerate of South Florida.

Carolyn learned about our church at the annual Breast Cancer Walk at Spanish Springs. She noticed a group of women with straw hats and pink decorated shirts, and found out that they were FPC's Soul Sisters. When they invited her to join them for dinner, she accepted. She attended FPC the following Sunday.

She found that the people of FPC actually practice their mission statement. “People were welcoming, interested in others, and as a Christian I knew fpc would be a good fit. I was impressed with the choir that first Sunday (she has since joined The Joyful Noise). I am so glad that I ‘found’ the church”.

Carolyn's interests include music, singing in the choir, and a water color club she recently joined.

John Mercurio is originally from New York City, specifically Staten Island and The Bronx, where he lived within walking distance to Yankee Stadium. John said, “When I went to the games, I would brown bag it because even then hot dogs were expensive!”

John served in the U.S. Air Force for four years – three years stateside, and one year in Korea. He was a mechanic in the Air Force and in civilian life, where he worked on the power trains of the “tugs” that pulled airplanes. He retired in 1988. During these years John was married to Bru (nickname for Brunette). They knew each other at the age of ten and began dating at 17. They married when they were 21. Bru passed away on January 31 of this year after 66 years of marriage.

John's neighbors, Nancy and Frank Purnell, introduced John to our church. John said he “really likes the sanctuary at Christmastime, especially when the entire congregation decorates the tree. I also like the friendliness of the congregation.” He used to attend the Saturday morning brunches because of the good speakers and the social atmosphere. “I really miss them.”

John keeps fit by playing golf and going to the gym three times a week (each!).

Ginger Jacobs was born in Nebraska City, NE and lived in upstate New York in the town of Halcott Center. Ginger has also lived in Albany, where she went to business college and trained as a medical secretary. She has lived in Saratoga Springs; Plymouth MA; Honolulu; Silverdale, WA; Hobbs, NM; and now the Village of Tamarind Grove.

She began attending our church with her mother, the late Mary Davies. After Mary passed away, Ginger continued to attend FPC on her own. Her brother, Collin Kelly, and his wife, Sharon, are also new FPC members. She feels comfortable here because our church congregation is friendly, “like a happy family”.

Ginger has many interests. She plays tenor sax in four bands; she golfs, swims, plays pokeno, and gets together with small groups for cards and games in Tamarind Grove.

SKIN CANCER



One of the main reasons that skin cancer develops is because DNA is damaged. DNA is the master molecule that controls and directs every cell in the body. Damage to DNA is one of the ways that cells lose control of growth and become cancerous. DNA mutations can also be inherited. Excess exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light can damage the DNA in skin cells and increase a person's risk for both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer. UV light is invisible radiation from the sun that can damage DNA. Skin cells are especially susceptible to DNA damage since they are frequently exposed to UV light.

Source.....NIH



... that our own Jan Coleman won 2nd place in the Ingham County Fair in Mason, Michigan, for her homemade tomato bread! Jan said, "I should have won 1st place, but you know how political those contests are on the county level. It was probably the county drain commissioner's wife who won 1st prize!"

Written by Jan Coleman

And, Did You Know That ... when Robin Ladd was eight years old his collie won 1st prize in a local contest?



Or, did you know that Rosemary Ganci had to wear dresses all the time and got into trouble making the best mudpies in Teaneck, NJ.? Her grandmother had to scrub the mud out on a washboard -- no washing machine available!



Robin was born in Manhattan and moved to western Connecticut near Benedict Arnold's hometown. His mother was a single mom and a kindergarten teacher in Connecticut and in the Catskills. Rosemary was born in Brooklyn, NY. She did not remember seeing her father until she was older because he was serving in the Canadian Army. She says, "I was really raised by my grandparents."

After college, Robin worked for Penn Mutual in Philadelphia, "the large insurance agency behind Independence Hall. It was while I was in management training that I met Jane, married, and had two boys. We lived in New Jersey and Arizona. We came back east and in 1969 built a house borrowing on the Frank Lloyd Wright style." While still in the insurance business, Robin was asked by President Jimmy Carter and 100 other agents to come to the White House, where he heard President Carter talk about hospital cost containment.

Robin went on to say "Soon I was between jobs because New England Life closed one-man offices. Since I had no health insurance, I applied to be a school bus driver, and I got the job. I retired from driving high school students around in 2010 after 25 years. I really enjoyed my job."

Rosemary worked in a millinery (hats) office, but really did not like the job although "I was busy because women wore hats then. I was mainly in direct marketing with catalogs and served in that position and as a mailing list broker."

When Robin and Rosemary were asked how they found out about FPC of Wildwood, Rosemary said she saw the ad in the Daily Sun. At first, both of them attended North Lake Presbyterian, but later went to FPC, where they found our smaller church to be more welcoming. They immediately took to Bill Kramp (pastor at the time). Robin says: "It was the 3rd Sunday, potluck Sunday! I thought, if they feed me like this, I'm coming back. Jane and I joined in 2012."

Rosemary joined in August 2012 because "everyone was so friendly and everyone knew my name!" She is involved with Love Inc., organizes Supper Club with Robin, is on the Sunshine Committee, prepares communion, and chairs the Mission Committee. Both Robin and Rosemary share a passion for mission. For the last two years, they have organized groups from FPC to travel to the Dominican Republic where they helped the local people learn English, made recycled paper, worked in the cocoa factory, made water filters and delivered some of these to people in a remote village. (For more information on this trip, go to page 5 of the June Beacon.) "Unfortunately the cruise ship Fathom Adonia made our mission trip of 2017 the final one for us. The people of the island were so grateful to us. It is sad that they will not get our help anymore."



Change in Church Liaison to the Soup Kitchen:

Please note that Pastor Susan is now the liaison between the church and the Soup Kitchen, replacing Nancy Purnell who has fielded those contacts and concerns for the past several

years.

Recently Seen On A License Plate:

"Wag More, Bark Less!"



-- Dru Movizzo

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, July 9

There will be a short congregational meeting following worship on July 9 for the purpose of electing a ruling elder to fill the unexpired term in the session class of 2018.



Building And Grounds General Meeting

On Wednesday, July 12, 2017 we will have a meeting of all those interested in helping with Building and Grounds projects. There will be a discussion of projects that are already under way as well as your thoughts as to what you would like to see. We will meet at 10 a.m. at the church and try to adjourn by 11 a.m. Sorry, no lunch! Please come and bring your ideas with you!

Robin and Tom

F.I.S.H. is coming August 26!

Save the date! On Saturday, August 26, our presbytery will hold its annual "Fresh Ideas Start Here" educational event at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Orlando. Participants can choose 2 out of 18 workshops to attend. Registration is \$9 and deadline to register is August 18. Pick up a flyer from the tables by the sanctuary doors, or contact Cheryl Carson at ccarson@cfpresbytery.org for more information.

PLEASE NOTE: We are now getting our office supplies from Staples, and we have discovered that they will give us a \$2.00 credit toward our next purchase for every used ink cartridge we bring in. If you have ink cartridges that need to be recycled and you don't want them, please bring them to Kathy Carter at the church, and she will put them to good use.

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. 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.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Choir Rehearsals
Blood Pressure Clinic
2 Cents A Meal Offering
Potluck Fellowship

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m. *
1st Sunday of each Month, 11:30 – 12:00 noon
2nd Sunday of each Month
3rd Sunday of each Month, After Worship
* Summer Hours

JULY EVENTS		
Sunday July 9	Choir Practice 2 Cents a Meal Congregational Meeting	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. After Worship
Monday, July 10	Deacons' Meeting	2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 12	Building & Grounds Committee Meeting	11:00 a.m.
Thursday, July 13	Soup Kitchen Board Meeting Ladies Lunch – Eaton's Beach. Call Barb @753-8829	11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 16	Choir Practice Pot Luck	9:30 a.m. After Worship
Tuesday, July 18	MC-Love, INC.	9:30 a.m.
Thursday, July 20	Media Committee Meeting	10:00 a.m.
Sunday, July 23	Choir Practice	9:30 a.m.
Thursday, July 27	Health Committee Meeting Morning Prayer	9 a.m. 10:00 a.m.