



The Beacon

June 2018



First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood
203 Barwick Street
Wildwood, Florida 34785
Website: www.fpcwildwood.org
Phone: 352-748-2530
E-Mail: 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
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.** July-August’s (the summer issue) deadline is Friday, June 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:



The 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church(U.S.A.)

Dear friends in Christ,

Every two years, a multitude of Presbyterians gather together to engage in the business of the denomination. This summer, from June 16- 23, the 223rd General Assembly will meet in St. Louis, MO. The General Assembly consists of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders (pastors) who have been elected by each of the 173 presbyteries to serve as commissioners to the assembly. The commissioners are charged with discerning the will of Christ for the denomination, in much the same way Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders are charged with discerning the will of Christ for their local church. The General Assembly is full of activities: business sessions, committee meetings, daily worship services, a large exhibit hall and mission tours sponsored by the committee on Local Arrangements. The assembly acts on hundreds of items of business, which it receives through the reports and recommendations of various assembly entities, and through overtures from synods and presbyteries.

I had the honor of serving as a Teaching Elder commissioner to the 220th General Assembly in 2012, held in Pittsburgh, PA. It was perhaps the most fulfilling way I have served our denomination in my time as a Teaching Elder. To be a part of the decision making of the larger church, as well as engaging in dialogue with other Presbyterians, and of course running into many friends from around the nation are things I will always be grateful for.

This year I am attending not as a commissioner, but as an observer. That means that I will not have voting rights during the plenary sessions, but will be able to attend various committee meetings, workshops, plenary sessions, seminary receptions, worship services and the like. Along with several thousand other Presbyterians who come to “observe,” I am hopeful that the week will be filled with learning, giving, and sharing. I am looking forward to reconnecting with many friends and sharing stories of our various ministries.

I ask for your prayers for the denomination, and especially the commissioners, as they gather in St. Louis in just a few weeks. I look forward to sharing stories and insights about the current work of the denomination when I return.

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Susan

MAY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

In an effort to keep our congregation informed, below are highlights from the May 2018 Stated Session Meetings:

May 13

- ~ **Approved** the request of Carol Wallen to join FPC by letter of transfer from North Lake Presbyterian Church, Lady Lake, FL.
- ~ **Approved** the request of Bill Koster to join FPC by letter of transfer from Spring Lake Presbyterian Church, Sebring, FL.
- ~ **Approved** the request of JoAnn Koster to join FPC by reaffirmation of faith.
- ~ **Prayed** for these individuals and for our church.

May 15

- ~ **Shared** congregational prayer concerns and participated in an opening devotional and prayer led by Elder Carol Norton.
- ~ **Approved** minutes from the April 17, 2018 Stated Meeting of the Session and the May 13, 2018 Called meeting of the Session.
- ~ **Engaged** in discussion with representatives from the Central Florida Presbytery's Committee on Ministry as they conducted the tri-annual visit with our church.
- ~ **Approved** Fran Simone to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioner to the Stated Meeting of the Central Florida Presbytery on June 7, 2018.
- ~ **Approved** the Rev. Brenda Loyal to preach on June 24, 2018 while Rev. Takis attends the PC(USA) General Assembly in St. Louis, MO.
- ~ **Approved** the request of the moderator to move the June 19 Stated Meeting of the Session to July 17, as the moderator will be in St. Louis in June.
- ~ **Heard** a report from the Session Moderator. The Discovery Class (New Member Class) to be held on May 20 will have 8 participants.
- ~ **Heard** a good monthly report from John Ulrich, Finance Team chair.
- ~ **Approved** a motion from the Finance Team to adopt the following financial policies: Budget Process, Capital Reserve Fund, Gifts of Securities.
- ~ **Approved** to accept the proposal from *Church Insurance Board/Hartford* for our church workers compensation insurance.
- ~ **Received and discussed** written reports from the various teams of the church.
- ~ **Closed** the meeting in prayer led by Ruling Elder John Ulrich.

Highlights submitted by Rev. Susan Takis, Session Moderator

IT'S JUNE – TIME AGAIN FOR THAT MID-YEAR CHECK-UP!



Well, we're at the half way mark. So, how is it going? Are you on target regarding your planned projects, commitments, and schedule? Perhaps it's time for a

mid-year check-up.

Make a review of your status before it's too late to adjust or make changes. A mid-year review can be helpful when considering your finances, commitments, planned projects, activities, and anything else. It allows you to

reassess all your plans within the framework of the remaining six months of the year.

So again, how is it going? Have you made headway 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 commitment while traveling this summer? Take the time. See how you are doing. Make the adjustments you think necessary. You'll be glad you did!



-- The Stewardship Team



A JOYFUL NOISE!: NEWS FROM THE CHOIR

Our choir has been working hard to add musical praise to our Sunday worship services. The loyal choir members have been good about “going with the flow” when crises arise, and I am glad to know they are willing and able to adapt and change. This summer

we are trying something new: the choir will have a break for about 10 weeks when music will be provided by small groups and soloists, giving the group some time off to travel or just enjoy being in the congregation. We’ll be back again full strength before Labor Day. Happy summer, everyone!

Connie Emery, Choir Director

THE HAVEN MOTHER’S DAY PROJECT



Wow, Wow, Wow!!! What an amazing response you all gave to our request to support the women and babies at the Haven. You were so generous in your giving of personal care items such as shampoo, conditioner, hand-lotion, toothpaste/brushes, deodorant and baby diapers. Collin’s truck was full of all the supplies as we rolled up for delivery on May 9th just in time for Mother’s Day.



As you may be aware, the Haven has been providing support since 1977 to women and children who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. The Haven staffs a 24 hour emergency crisis hotline and assists these victims with emergency shelter, food, clothing, and counseling/referrals as needed. They provide an unduplicated service to women in Lake and Sumter counties, empowering them to establish a violence-free life.

The Mission Team thanks you sincerely for participating in this “hands on” mission and most especially for your care for these women and their children.

-- Candice Ulrich

Photos by Kenny Mosher

HELP WANTED!!



We need someone every Sunday morning to place our small directional signs at a few strategic spots (as Rock of Ages does) around 9 a.m., and to pick them up and put them away after the service. Any volunteers?? Call or email the church office if you feel qualified for this job (748-2530; fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com).

-- The Communications Team

Getting To Know You!



to Michele Topolnicki, one of our newest FPC members!



Michele was born and raised in Long Island, NY, moved to the Villages in 2012 and currently resides in independent living at Sumter Grand. She has been married to her husband, Neil for 10 years (as of today, 5/24) and they have six grandkids. Michele studied Physical Therapy at Russell Sage College in Troy, NY and worked in the Tide Water, VA area for 33 years, primarily in home health.

Michele enjoys reading (mostly historical romances) and singing which she has been doing since 4th grade. She is a member of our Joyful Noise Choir, and has already volunteered to be involved with our Health Ministry Team. She will be hosting a class on "Balance and Fall Recovery". Watch for more information coming soon! *Michele says she's happy to be a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood Family!*

Please remember to add Michele's information onto your Church Directory:

Michele Topolnicki
1490 Killingsworth Way, Apt. #262
The Villages, FL 32162
Email: homegript@cfl.rr.com
Home: (352) 674-3847
Cell: (757) 478-3533

THE GRAYS VISIT HAWAII



Allen & Gloria Gray & Rev. Bill & Betty Kramp spent two weeks in Hawaii last month. While there, they were able to visit with Mary Alice MacDougall, long time member of First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood. She moved to Hawaii to live with her daughter, Karen, whom they also got to meet during their visit.

Gloria says: "She is doing well and told us she doesn't feel any different than when she left Wildwood! She said she continues to do the shopping and cooking since Karen is still working.

"In case anyone is concerned about Mary Alice being affected by the volcano eruptions, this is happening in the extreme south east and she lives in the northern part of the island.

"We had a very delightful visit with her and she sends her regards to all her friends here at church. Her birthday is next month, June 25th, and she will be 97 years young! For anyone interested in sending her a card, her address is: P. O. Box 2552, Kamuela, HI 96743."

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER REQUESTS

Do you have a prayer concern or joy you would like to share with the congregation on Sunday mornings? There is a "Prayer Request" notebook in the narthex near the front door to the sanctuary where you can write your prayer requests for Pastor Susan to share during the Prayers of the People.



THE SUPPER CLUB



Twenty-nine foodies enjoyed delicious food at Ivy on Magnolia on May 10 in Ocala. Menu choices included, but were not limited to, baked chicken, fried shrimp, filet mignon and a side of macaroni and cheese. The ambiance of this new restaurant is silver and gray with almost an art deco feel. The service we received from our two waiters was excellent. The restaurant was hopping, indicating to me that they are doing everything right. OUR NEXT EATING ADVENTURE, BY POPULAR DEMAND, WILL BE AT AMRIT

PALACE, 3415 SW College Road (#200), Ocala. This restaurant is a favorite of the group. They offer fine Indian cuisine, excellent service and we will have our own private room. Call Rosemary Ganci at 352-751-4432 or send her an e-mail at thelistlady514@gmail.com if you would like to enjoy an evening at Amrit Palace for great food and fellowship. Want to be on the Supper Club e-mail list and hear about dining adventures as they are booked? Send Rosemary an e-mail with your e-mail address and tell her to put you on the list!

ANNUAL CHURCH FAMILY CORN BOIL!! Sunday, June 24th



There will be no potluck on Sunday, June 17th. Instead on **Sunday, June 24**, we will hold our **7th Annual Corn Boil**. This is our "annual church family holiday celebration". Tickets are \$8 and will be available from Nancy Purnell at (352) 408-2826 or nmpurnell@gmail.com or from Jan Coleman, (517) 290-8878. **Tickets are limited so please get yours early!**



LADIES LUNCHEON

Our next luncheon will be Tuesday, June 19, 11:30 a.m. We will go to Williams/Lunch on the Limoges at Dade City. This is a great restaurant and worth the trip. All ladies are invited. Contact Carol Norton, 352-748-3459 or cjln540@gmail.com for reservations. Look forward to seeing you there!

TRIVIA CORNER:



Kenny Mosher has determined that I am his 5th great nephew of wife of 3rd cousin
Ex removed.

Our common ancestor is Samuel Adams' wife, Abigail



Samuel Adams is Kenny's relative



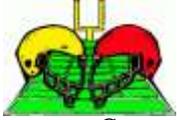
Samuel Adams' second wife, Elizabeth Wells, is my relative



Before long, everyone in the church will be related to Kenny!

-- Bruce Williams

FAITH, FAMILY, FOOTBALL: AN EVENING WITH COACH ROLLE,
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 6:00 P.M.



Make plans to gather in the sanctuary on Tuesday, June 5, at 6 p.m. to hear an inspiring talk by Coach McKinley Rolle, the Head Varsity Football Coach at Wildwood Middle High School, winners of all nine regular season games in 2017, following the 2016 season when they were 0 and 9!

Come meet this inspirational Coach* along with team members and other athletic staff from Wildwood Middle High School. There will be a goodwill offering to sponsor football player attendance at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Camp.

We hope to have a big crowd for this exciting evening!

**From the November 2017 edition of The Beacon, written by Rosemary Ganci: "There is a renewed pride at the school with the addition of a new football coach, McKinley Rolle, whose focus is Faith, Family and Football. He hopes to bring a new attitude to the team (they have won three straight games to date!) to help them gain a sense of self-discipline, accountability and good manners toward each other."*
[Photo: FPC fans cheering the players on at a November 2107 game.]



Presbyterian Influences on Education in Florida:
First in a Series



We take public education for granted. Yet, it wasn't that long ago that there was no education system in Florida! So, the Presbyterians helped fill a void by providing education where none existed.

Let's step back to 1776 when Georgia was one of the original 13 colonies. Florida was Spanish. In fact, Florida has been Spanish longer than it has been American! In 1819, Alabama became a state. Florida was still Spanish until they ceded Florida to the US in 1821.

In 1831, the Florida Education Society was founded. The History of Public School Education in Florida notes that, "Prior to this there is no record of any educational activity what so ever in Florida." Oh yes, there was prior educational activity in Florida! Stay tuned for more information.

See how Presbyterians helped establish some of the first schools in Florida. See how the first universities in Florida were established as "Seminaries of Learning" and influenced by Presbyterians.

Some articles to follow include,

- Round log school houses in Florida's Panhandle
- Leon Academy, Tallahassee
- Knox Hill Academy, Eucheeanna
- Florida State Normal School, Palmer College, and the **Chautauqua** Assembly, Defuniak Springs
- How Presbyterians founded Florida State University, sort of
- How Presbyterians influenced the Orange and Blue of the University of Florida



-- Bruce Williams



Please Remember that our church campus is a non-smoking campus.
Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Choir Rehearsals	The Choir is on summer break. Practice will resume in September
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 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.

JUNE

Sunday, June 3	Choir Practice (final Sunday practice) Communion Blood Pressure Clinic in Fellowship Hall	9:15am 10:30am 11:30am
Tuesday, June 5	Faith, Family & Football Event with Coach Rolle	6:00pm
Wednesday, June 6	Worship Team Meeting Mission Team Meeting	9:00am 10:30am
Thursday, June 7	Quarterly CFP Meeting (Rev. Takis to attend)	9:00am-3:00pm
Sunday, June 10	Two Cents a Meal/Worship	10:30am
Monday, June 11	Deacon's Meeting	2:00pm
Wednesday, June 13	Finance Team Meeting	10:30am
Week of June 16-23	223 rd General Assembly Convenes in St. Louis	
Sunday, June 17	Worship	10:30am
Tuesday, June 19	Ladies Luncheon	11:30am
Sunday, June 24	Worship Corn Boil	10:30am After Worship



EDITOR'S NOTE: The next issue of *The Beacon* will be the July-August one. Think about what you might want to see in it, and in future issues. Photos and texts are always welcome. This month's Haven Mother's Day Project, written by Candice Ulrich; and the Grays' visit with Mary Alice MacDougall, written by Gloria, are great examples. Put on your creative hats and come up with something like Bruce Williams' History column.

And please keep your phones handy to snap pictures! Kenny's pictures taken at the Haven project are good examples. Let's give Richard a break!! His photos set the standard of quality extremely high, but don't let that intimidate you. You'd be amazed at what I can do with Photoshop! In the same vein, if you want to see something in *The Beacon* but aren't comfortable with your writing skills, give me an outline and I'll write it and send it back to you for review. And no one will know the difference!

If you have the ambition to write a monthly – or even bi-monthly - column, as Connie does with *The Joyful Noise* and Vic does with the Stewardship report, have at it! This is YOUR newsletter, and it should reflect your impressions of our activities throughout the year. Receiving write-ups from you really floats my boat! It also makes my job easier and a lot more fun.



I sincerely enjoy editing FPC's newsletter, and plan to continue doing so for the foreseeable future. Help me out with your own *Beacon* contributions!

Marge O'Kane