



The Beacon

May 2018



First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood
203 Barwick Street
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: 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.** June’s deadline is Friday, May 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 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:



GIVING THANKS FOR EACH OF YOU
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

Dear friends in Christ,

As these words were written to the church in Ephesus so long ago as a way of offering thanksgiving and gratitude, so I use them today in the very same way. For even as I cannot ever adequately express my gratitude and love for all you have done to support me and my family these past months, these from Ephesians get at what I want to say to each of you.

As I have told you many times, I knew that our church was special from the first time I walked in and began to meet you and know you. Over the past 20 months, I have seen the love and care you extend to each other in times of crisis, need, heartache and joy. I have been amazed by the strong bonds of faith and friendship that continue to form and then deepen between so many of you. It has filled my heart to witness your love for Jesus Christ and for one another.

And over these past few months, as my dad’s health continued to decline and then as my brothers and I faced his death, and now as we live into the reality that he is with my mom in heaven, your love and care and attention has been overwhelming. Your cards, calls, hugs, and so many other expressions of sympathy have buoyed me and my brothers in these days of remembrance and mourning. To be the recipient of your caregiving has been a humbling and grace-filled time for me. I hold each of your expressions of love close to my heart.

Thank you to the Session of this church for allowing me the time away to be with my family when my dad died, even as it was Easter weekend. Thank you to Howard Newman for stepping in and preaching on Easter Sunday, to the worship team for all they did to ensure things were perfect for Easter Sunday, to the deacons for continuing to watch over our congregation so well while my focus has been with my family, to Janet Cressman for keeping things in the office moving forward and flowing smoothly, and to each of you for your patience and love. How blessed I am to serve such an incredible congregation.

The fabric of love and caregiving we weave together at FPC is truly something special. Delight in each other, pray for one another, support one another, and give thanks to God made known to us in Jesus Christ that we are together for a time such as this.

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Susan

APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

In an effort to keep our congregation informed, below are highlights from the April 17, 2018 Stated Session Meeting:



- ~ **Shared** congregational prayer concerns and participated in an opening devotional and prayer led by Elder Chuck Loser.
- ~ **Approved** minutes from the February 20, 2018 Stated Meeting of the Session.
- ~ **Approved** the transfer request of Beverly Manahan to Valley United Presbyterian Church, Waverly, NY.
- ~ **Approved** the request of Michele Topolnicki to join into FPC membership by letter of transfer from St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Wildwood, FL.
- ~ **Heard** a report from the Session Moderator. Highlights included: (1) Rev. Takis will be attending the PC(USA) General Assembly from June 16-June 23 in St. Louis, MO. (2) Rev. Takis has been elected to serve as moderator of the *Presbytery's Cooperative Committee on the Examination of Candidates (PCCEC)* for the denomination. (3) Rev. Takis will serve as the president of the Wildwood Soup Kitchen Board of Directors beginning in May, 2018. She currently serves as vice-president. (4) A *Discovery Class* will be held on May 20 for anyone interested in joining the church.
- ~ **Heard** a report from John Ulrich, Finance Team chair, who reported good financial news, but reminded us that we must remain good stewards of the church's finances.
- ~ **Approved** a motion from the Mission Team to collect the *Peace and Global Witness Offering* on World Communion Sunday, October 7, 2018. This is one of the four special offerings collected by the denomination. FPC also participates in *One Great Hour of Sharing* and the *Joy Offering*.
- ~ **Approved**, after extended discussion and comparison of different proposals, to accept the proposal from *Insurance Board Partners in Protection* for our church insurance. This policy thoroughly protects the church's assets in case of any catastrophe. Many thanks to Ruling Elder Fran Simone for her diligence in leading this effort.
- ~ **Approved** a motion from the Personnel Team to hire Connie Emery as our permanent music director. Connie has completed her three-month interim, and the personnel team is very satisfied with her work thus far. Welcome aboard, Connie!
- ~ **Approved** a motion from the Buildings & Ground Team to convert the lighting in the sanctuary from incandescent to LED fixtures. This project is funded by an anonymous donor, at no cost to the church.
- ~ **Received and discussed** written reports from the various teams of the church.
- ~ **Closed** the meeting in prayer led by Ruling Elder Carol Norton.

Highlights submitted by Rev. Susan Takis, Session Moderator



IT'S MAY – A MONTH FOR FLOWERS, A MONTH FOR NURTURING

How does the old adage go? “April showers bring May flowers!” But what really brings forth all that beauty and growth? It's all the things that nature provides in April to nurture that plant or flower. It's the water, nutrients in the soil, sunlight, and warmer temperatures that the season brings.

Likewise, most of us will provide many of those same needs for our own gardens. We too will nurture our plantings so that we can enjoy their beauty and growth. We may even talk to them as a form of nurturing.

But beyond the realm of plants and flowers, what else do we nurture? What else is important enough for us to devote time, resources, and energy to see beauty and growth? Do we participate in a Bible study to grow our understanding of our Faith? Will we volunteer at an agency to help those in need? Are we willing to serve on a committee to direct a church project or event? Do we support our church through regular giving? Do we pray to improve our relationship with the Lord? These are all nurturing activities. All are worthwhile, but the most important is the last. Be mindful of our need to continually nurture our relationship with the Father through his Son, Jesus, and enjoy all the beauty and growth that a month like May will bring!

-- The Stewardship Team



While the month of May brings spring flowers, it also brings us Pentecost, when we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and other believers in the Messiah. The liturgical color for Pentecost is red, so let's all wear red, if possible, to church on that **SUNDAY, MAY 20TH**.

Lizette Murray

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.

-- Connie Emery, Choir Director



DISCOVERY CLASS, SUNDAY, MAY 20

Are you a regular attendee who is interested in gathering with others from the congregation and learning more about our church, what it means to be Presbyterian and what membership may look like and mean for you? The upcoming “Discovery Class” is for you! Join Pastor Susan on Sunday afternoon, May 20, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the church (following potluck) for conversation. Let her know you are interested in attending by May 13 so she can plan accordingly. Please call the church at (352)748-2530 or email susanfpcw@gmail.com.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

FRIENDSHIP GROUP KUDOS!

Kudos to all our small groups for all they do for one another and for our church. Save the date on your calendar for Sunday, June 24th as the JOY group is planning our 7th annual Corn Boil Lunch which is a fund raiser for our church. The JOY group has also started a collection each meeting for items for any charity of choice of the hosts for their current meeting. Following the meeting, the hosts drop off all the collected items to the named charity. It is a fun thing to do and just added to the enjoyment of belonging to a group. Think of the possibilities!

Bev Eckert has been hard at work lining up help for our Sunday fellowship hours and her group, Sunshine Servers, has helped with many Sunday spreads. (See her article next page). If your group is seeking a way to give back and help, consider fellowship hosting as a great way of serving all our members and guests in the church, or get creative and find another way to provide something thoughtful for our church or community and tell us about it.

If you would like to be part of one of our Friendship Groups, or learn more about them, please contact me and I will be happy to talk to you about it.

Nancy Purnell
Fellowship

ONE IMPORTANT SERVICE TO OUR LORD IS COMMUNION. Well, that does not prepare itself! If you are interested in helping with that preparation, please contact Peggy Williams at villagespeg@gmail.com or give her a call (352) 633-1561. It’s usually needed only once a month. Think about it!! Thank you.



-- Lizette Murray



ARE YOU READY TO CLOTHE-A-KID?

Greetings from your Love INC CMC (Christian Ministry Co-ordinator).
We are thinking ahead to the new school year (and this one hasn't even ended!)
There are a number of ways you can help this Love INC ministry.

You can shop with a family and help them select the clothing and shoes (following school guidelines) their children will need for the new school year. It's a fun time, usually lasting an hour, and the kids are excited to be picking out new clothes for themselves. Each family has \$70 to spend per child. The parent gives \$10 to secure their spot; this money is then added to the \$60 that Love INC contributes.

You'll be meeting the family at Kohl's in The Villages, and you pick the date most convenient for you. They are Monday, July 23rd 10 am to 2 pm; Tuesday, July 24th 1 pm to 5 pm; Wednesday, July 25th 1 pm to 5 pm; Thursday, July 26th 4 pm to 7 pm.



Note: I have shopped with families in this program and it's most rewarding. The kids are great and the parents so appreciative.

Or, if you are unable to shop, you can Sponsor-A-Kid by donating \$60 or whatever amount you can afford. Special envelopes will be provided in the pews.

To shop with a family call Rosemary Ganci at 352-751-4432 or send her an e-mail at thelistlady514@gmail.com

Whatever you choose to do we thank you and thank God that you care about those less fortunate families.



Rosemary Ganci
Christian Ministry Coordinator, Love INC

P.S. Love INC is in need of volunteers to work in their store, Centsible Furnishings, on Thursday. If you have a few hours to spare, enjoy meeting people, and working in a store environment call me at 352-751-4432.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR



First of all, I'd like to give giant kudos to all those who have volunteered to provide fellowship over the last several months.

Individuals, our Health Ministry group and Sunshine Seekers (who took care of the whole month of January) have given generously of their time and talents. We still fall short of filling up our volunteer calendar each month. A couple of reasons have been suggested. Perhaps you are worried that you might be left doing it **all** and have no idea what to do. There will always be at least one experienced person there to guide you (Neville and Dawn Cullen have made this their personal ministry). When they are absent, another experienced individual will be there. Also, I send out a "work sheet" to each person beforehand so you'll know exactly what is expected.

In addition, some may find doing this on a regular basis is a financial burden. Mostly, we need **people!** We have a healthy fellowship fund (from weekly contributions) to help you with the cost of providing goodies if you need it. Just save your receipts and mention this to Neville or me.

If every individual/couple volunteered only twice in any calendar year --- we'd be in great shape. Unfortunately, the few must pick up the slack and I'm fearful they will get burned out. Please prayerfully consider adding your name to the fellowship calendar, which is on the bulletin board next to Susan's office. Also, I will have a clipboard at fellowship each week for sign-ups; and if you have questions, please contact me at beveckert@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for your help.

Bev Eckert



Ed McCombs and his Guardian, Vicki Holmes, prepare for the Honor Flight to Washington D.C.

April 4, 2018, was the day Ed McCombs was one of 42 Veterans flying to Washington, DC, with Villages Honor Flight. Ed was a Corporal in the Army during the Korean Conflict and was in charge of an engineering group attached to the 82nd Airborne.

During the day the Honor Flight contingent visited Arlington National Cemetery to witness the Changing of the Guard. They were also able to visit the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, which is not usually on the itinerary.

After a long day, they flew home and were greeted by family and friends at the American Legion Post 347, Lady Lake, FL. But during the flight – and this was a surprise for him – Ed was given over 100 “thank-you for your service” notes from parishioners! (See related article below.)

If you are a veteran and are interested in flying to Washington, DC, please see Louise Fahey or visit www.villageshonorflight.org

As many of you know, I was chosen to go on a Veterans’ Honor Flight visiting the Washington DC war memorials and Arlington Cemetery for a changing of the guard. It was a very memorable night-day-night starting out at 1:30 am and arriving back at the local American Legion with a police and motorcycle escort at 2:00 am. (24+ hours later). Forty-two vets, each with a guardian. Lots of salutes and “thank you for your service.” Our police escort in DC was breathtaking. We never stopped, and we went all the way to Alexandria for dinner and back to the airport.

A closing ceremony and a surprising “Mail Call” capped the trip. I received over a hundred pieces of mail all the way from 8th graders to Governor Scott! Mail was always an important

part of any service person’s life. The biggest surprise was the many sincere notes I received from friends at FPCW! Thank you so much.



The Honor Flight Organization is an exceptional and dedicated group. Everything was so well planned. What teamwork! I was surprised to find so many of our congregation playing an important role, including Louise Fahey, Courtland Munroe, Beverly Eckert, and former guardians, Tom McKee, Lisa Forsythe, and Amy Dunigan, and of, course, Lynn Barnes who was a guardian on our flight. Another surprise, Lynn’s daughter, Colonel Gail Atkins came over to the WWII Memorial from the Pentagon to see us and present me with two great medallions.

-- Ed McCombs



Remember to let the office know if you had any recent changes to your contact information. This would include phone numbers, email addresses, or part-time addresses.

The following changes happened this past month. Remember to update your church directory that was emailed home earlier this year. We will be emailing updated church directories in July and December.

George & Karen Murray	1550 Killingsworth Way	Rm. #201 (George) Rm. #229 (Karen)	The Villages, FL 32162
Bob Williams	7676 Rio Grande Blvd.	Apt. #138	Wildwood, FL 34785



— How can I stop this terrible BACK PAIN?

After complaining to my doctor, he referred me to a specialist in treating back pain. So I had two different injections, which did not alleviate my pain at all. The physician suggested two other treatments that sounded very complicated and frightening. Because the doctor spoke rapidly and with a heavy accent, I needed someone who could go with me to the appointment and help me understand how the new treatments would help me or could hurt me.

Dru Movizzo —the moderator of the church's Health Ministries Team and of the Health Advocacy Ministry— came with me to my appointment. As a registered nurse, Dru understood the medical terms the doctor used and could ask him specific questions. She kept notes that helped me make the decision on whether to go forward with the treatments.

Health decisions can be very complicated and frightening. At times like these, you too can have a trained member of the Health Advocacy Ministry Team accompany you to your doctor appointments. It's always good to have a close friend or family member along, but having someone trained in note taking and caring support along too, is even better for you. Honesty and confidentiality are the highest priorities of all members of this ministry team.



I am grateful to Dru for accompanying me. Having her help me understand the doctor's suggested procedures was priceless! For more information, you can contact her or me directly by phone or through our church office.

Janet Muench



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





If anyone has photos they would like to put on the fellowship hall bulletin board as part of "The Story Of Us", that would be great! All photos can be left in the church office.

Donna

A Letter from the Post Office......this is absolutely the best! Someone in the postal service needs to be rewarded! It came by way of my friend Ingrid on email, and I can hardly read it without tears. (We don't know who replied, but there is a beautiful soul working in the dead letter department who understands.)

-- Jan Coleman

Our 14-year-old dog Abbey died last month. The day after she passed away my 4 year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could, so she dictated these words:



Dear God, Will you please take care of my dog? Abbey died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick.

I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog. I really miss her. Love, Meredith

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abby and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office.

A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, "To Meredith" in an unfamiliar hand.

Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, *When a Pet Dies*. Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey and Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith, Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help, and I recognized her right away. Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I'm sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by. Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way. I'm easy to find. I am wherever there is love.

Love, God

 <p>When life closes a door,</p>	<p>open it again. It's a door. That's how they work.</p> <p>-- Donna Madison</p> 
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Our traditional Flower Cross created by the congregation on Easter Sunday. It was put outside after the service so that our neighbors could enjoy it.

Photo by Richard Barnes

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Choir Rehearsals	Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m.; Sunday Mornings, 9:15 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 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.

Wednesday, May 2	Mission Team Meeting Choir Practice	10:30am 6:15pm
Sunday, May 6	Choir Practice Communion Blood Pressure Clinic in Fellowship Hall	9:15am 10:30am 11:30am
Wednesday, May 9	Finance Team Meeting Choir Practice	10:30am 6:15pm
Thursday, May 10	Soup Kitchen Board Meeting PW Circle Supper Club	11:00am 2:00pm 5:00pm
Sunday, May 13	Choir Practice Two Cents a Meal/Worship	9:15am 10:30am
Monday, May 14	Deacon's Meeting	2:00pm
Tuesday, May 15	Session Meeting	6:00pm
Wednesday, May 16	PW Circle Choir Practice	10:00am 6:15pm
Thursday, May 17	Health Ministry Team Meeting (rescheduled from 5/24) Communications Team Meeting Ladies Luncheon	9:00am 10:00am 12:30am (see below)
Sunday, May 20	Choir Practice Worship Potluck Luncheon Discovery Class	9:15am 10:30am After Worship After Potluck
Tuesday, May 22	PW Circle	2:00pm
Wednesday, May 23	Choir Practice	6:15pm
Sunday, May 27	Choir Practice Worship	9:15am 10:30am
Monday, May 28	Memorial Day Holiday	Office Closed
Wednesday, May 30	Choir Practice	6:15pm



***Our next luncheon will be Thursday, May 17, at Sammy Joe's Pizzeria in Mulberry Plaza. We will meet at 12:30 p.m. All ladies are invited; contact Carol Norton, 352-748-3459 or cjln540@gmail.com for reservations. Look forward to seeing you there!**