



The

Beacon

September 2017

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
Accompanist: Eunice Mosier
Music Director: Sheila Phillips

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 4th Friday of the prior month or sooner if at all possible.*** October 2017 deadline is Friday, September 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:

WOW!



WOW! is the word that comes to mind when I think about the energy, vitality, dedication and faithfulness of all of you - the congregation of FPC! It is hard to believe, but September 14 marks my one year anniversary with you (although October 9 marks the date of my "official" installation as your pastor.) What a year it has been! As I have gotten to know you and to love you, I have grown in gratitude for the grace of God that has brought us together for a time such as this. You are a special group of people, and I can't adequately express what

it means to me to minister alongside each and every one of you.

I think about the things that we are doing and are looking toward doing in the future, and it boggles my mind and gladdens my heart. Because of your open hearts and faithfulness, we have accepted ten new people into membership so far this year, with three more joining in September and a handful more that will perhaps make that commitment later this fall. We have started a monthly morning prayer service, have organized the congregation into "flocks" to be cared for by our faithful and talented deacons, have rejoiced as more and more of you have volunteered to serve as ushers, liturgists, Sunday fellowship hosts, office helpers, choir members, and a myriad of other volunteer activities. Our finances remain solid and our fantastic finance team continues to work diligently behind the scenes on creating procedures and rules to keep our finances flowing "decently and in order."

I am also so very pleased and excited with all the new things coming down the pipe this fall and beyond. Because of your energy and creativity, as well as your joy at being together as a church family and your dedication to God, we have formed two more fellowship groups that will start up this Fall, we have revived the "Potluck Bridge Nights" and the men's breakfast/lunch group. We are introducing Presbyterian Women (PW) to our church with three new PW circles starting this September. There are ideas for new mission projects in our future, and tried and true missions will continue to be supported. Ideas for short-term education events are being discussed. Our church will be receiving a much needed "spruce-up" in the coming weeks as the exterior is power washed and painted. A task group approved by session will begin exploring possibilities for the future use of the Clow Center, once Rock of Ages Lutheran Church moves into their new space mid-to-late 2018. Your elders will begin a visioning process in early 2018 as we look toward the future proactively, creatively, and faithfully.

Thank you, beloved church family, for your love of God, dedication to this church, and dreams and hopes for the future. Pray without ceasing that God will continue to rain blessings upon this wonderful little church in the Wildwood!

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Susan



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

August Session Highlights

In an effort to keep our congregation informed, below are highlights from the August 15, 2017 Stated Session Meeting:

- ~ **Shared** congregational prayer concerns and participated in an opening devotional and prayer led by Ruling Elder Courtland Munroe.
- ~ **Approved** minutes from the June 20, 2017 Stated Meeting of the Session, the July 23 Special Meeting of the Session, and the July 9, 2017 Congregational Meeting.
- ~ **Approved** the request of John McKey to transfer his membership to the First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland, FL.
- ~ **Approved** the request of Ken McGray to transfer his membership to the North Lake Presbyterian Church in Lady Lake, FL.
- ~ **Heard** a report from the Session Moderator about various ongoing projects.
- ~ **Heard** from John Ulrich, member of the Finance Committee, who reports positive financial news at this point in the year.
- ~ **Approved** a request from the fellowship committee to hold a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser in the fellowship hall on Saturday, October 28, 2017.
- ~ **Approved** a request from the Session Moderator to form a task group made up of the pastor, a member of finance, a member of buildings and grounds, a member of Session, and a member from the congregation at large to look at future building use options for the Clow Center once Rock of Ages Lutheran Church vacates in mid-2018.
- ~ **Approved** a request from the Clerk of Session to contact seven members by letter inquiring into their desire to remain in membership or be removed from the rolls.
- ~ **Approved** a request from the Clerk of Session to remove 57 names from the church register of former members who have not been here in many years in an effort to continue cleaning up the church rolls and records.
- ~ **Received** written reports from the various committees of the church.

Highlights submitted by Rev. Susan Takis, Session Moderator



Photos by Richard Barnes

In July, Janie Kirkpatrick was installed as a Deacon, and John Ulrich as Ruling Elder. Thanks to both of them for their dedication to FPC.

And below are photos of new members John Mercurio, Carolyn Lindgren, Ginger Jacobs and Ken and Maude Hall. We published their biographies in the Summer issue of The Beacon with a group photo that was missing Ginger, so here she is, with individual photos of all of them!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILDWOOD: 2017 MID-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

June 30, 2017



<i>General Fund</i>		<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
<i>Income</i>	Jan. 1-June 30	108,328	121,806
<i>Expenses</i>	Jan. 1-June 30	83,272	88,586
	Net	25,056	33,238
Checking	June 30, 2016	46,322	36,745
	CD	0	20,000
	Total	46,322	56,745

Note 1: In March 2017, the General Fund paid back a \$2,000 loan to the Memorial Fund for funds needed to operate the church in late 2013 through June of 2014.

Note 2: In May 2017, the General Fund paid back \$5,000 to the Memorial Fund for the final loan!

Note 3: In summary, income was above budget due to some paid up pledges. Expenses were below budget due to anticipated expenses not yet spent. Thus, our net income is expected to decrease by the end of the year.

		<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
<i>Memorial Fund</i>	Checking June 30, 2016	7,849	8,853
	CDs June 30, 2016	35,665	35,996
	Loans Receivable	7,000	0
	Total	50,514	44,849

Note 4: In October 2016, \$7,088 was used from the Memorial Fund to pay for our share of the parking lot resurfacing.

<i>Capital Reserve Fund</i>		<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
	Balance	2,401	13,152

Note 5: The Capital Reserve Fund was established in 2016 to save money for future major capital expenses, such as air conditioner replacements. It is a segregated fund but included in the General Fund balance.

Bruce Williams, Chairman
Finance Committee



HEALTH MINISTRIES WILL BE GIVING OUT 2017 FLU SHOTS ON TWO DATES IN THE FALL:
Sunday, October 8th; and Sunday, November 12th, at 11:30 (following church service) at FPC in Fellowship Hall

Requirement: Health Ministries will provide the authorization form, which needs to be filled in out and signed in advance.

To be able to provide the correct number of Flu Shots, we need to know how many will be getting the shots on each of the dates.

Please pick up the authorization form, located in front of the pulpit.

If you have previously received the flu shot here at the church and your **insurance has not changed from last year**, you just need to put down your name, desired date and sign the form.

If this is your **first time getting the flu shot at church OR, if your insurance has changed**, you need to fill out the complete insurance information. Also remember to put down your name, desired date, and sign the form.

You may place the completed form in the collection plate.

Thank you,
Health Ministries Committee

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AROUND the WORLD

CELEBRATING 180 YEARS OF PRESBYTERIAN MISSION ABROAD!

In this year in which we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, we also mark 180 years of Presbyterian mission overseas.

KEEPING FAITH in COLOMBIA, South America

For more than 50 years, a civil war gripped Colombia, claiming more than 220,000 lives and leaving millions displaced. The Presbyterian Church of Colombia was there to provide unflinching fidelity to the gospel by offering comfort and building community among those whom the war has uprooted. At times Presbyterian leaders received death threats because they dared speak for peace and for the rights of displaced people.

In 2004 the Presbyterian Church of Colombia asked the Presbyterian Church USA for help as it confronted this dangerous situation. We responded by sponsoring PCUSA volunteers in short term visits to Colombia to stand with church leaders and others facing danger. The death threats eventually subsided and we shifted our focus to assisting Colombian Presbyterians with displaced people.

Our shared prophetic stance is based on our deeply held beliefs that Christian faith demands that believers engage in society and work for its betterment. This Reformed conviction has been part of the Presbyterian proclamation in Colombia since missionaries from PCUSA began working there in 1856. (Material provided by Rosemary Mitchell in "Mission Crossroads" Summer 2017)



Michael Parker

PCUSA Mission co-worker in Egypt.

EGYPT

New Presbyterian churches in Egypt are under construction on plots of land provided by the Egyptian government. Since 1863, the Presbyterian Church in Egypt has grown to include nearly 400 churches, including 100 new church plants or "fellowship groups" in eight presbyteries in the Synod of the Nile.

EL CENTRO PRESBYTERY IN CUBA

Our Central Florida Presbytery raised \$10,000 to assist Cuban Presbyterian Churches with needs for transportation and leadership development. Over 30 people from Central Florida Presbytery have traveled to Cuba to build relationships and assist our Cuban brothers and sisters in their ministry.



... And here at home ...



Presbyterian Women (PW) Coming to FPC! We are beginning our PW adventure this fall with not one, not two, but **THREE PW CIRCLES!** What an amazing response to this new opportunity! Circles are forming now! If you have not signed up but wish to join a circle, there are three circles, and the times are: 2nd Thursday at 2 p.m., 3rd Wednesday at 10 a.m., 4th Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. Please see Pastor Susan so that she may add you to a circle and get a study book (\$10) for you. All circles begin in September, and all ladies are welcome to join! (Related article on page 7.)



SEPTEMBER! SUMMER IS OVER. A NEW SEASON BEGINS!

Every September, our mindset shifts. Summer is over. We get back to our regular routines. Schools open for a new year. Pro football begins. Committees,

Boards, activities all start. New initiatives arise throughout the country. New products are introduced to the buying public. This is kick-off time!

And so it will be for FPC Wildwood. Do you plan to be a part of this time of new initiatives and growth in our church? Will you finally attend that Bible study class you promised to

join? Serve on a committee or board? Volunteer to work in the Soup Kitchen? How will you use your gifts – your talents, your treasures, your time – at this exciting time?

Using your gifts is part of Stewardship. Be a good steward of your God given gifts. Think how you can use those gifts at this exciting time at FPC to further God's Kingdom.

-- The Stewardship Committee



JOYFUL NOISE NOTES FROM SHEILA

The long hot summer is still with us and we are surviving. Hopefully, soon and very soon, our wanderers will return from their summer sojourns, and we will get in the Fall "swing of things." My love and appreciation to our choir members who helped keep the summer music program going----you are superb, marvelous

and all those other adjectives which help describe you.



And of course, our beloved, Eunice who is a treasure for which we are all most thankful. Each Sunday she blesses us with beautiful preludes, offertories and

postludes. In addition she also reads my mind on where to go and what to do when we work together with the choir. Thank you Eunice.

Hopefully, come September 6 we will have our full choir so that we can start our Thanksgiving and Advent music. Wow! Did I just say that? We do have to plan ahead and Pastor Susan and I are meeting to plan the many special Sundays coming in the fast approaching months.

A big "thank you" to the congregation! Your support for our music program here at First Presbyterian Church keeps us striving to do better. This means so much to all of us and give us motivation to continue.

Most of all, what a blessing and pleasure it is to serve God through music! Keep a song in your hearts!

Sheila Phillips, Choir Director

[Editor's Note: Wednesday practices begin on September 6th]



LADIES! The monthly Ladies Luncheon schedule has been revised. In odd months (January, March, May, July, September, November), the luncheon will be on the **3rd Thursday** at 12 noon. In even months (February, April, June, August, October, December), the luncheon will be on the **3rd Tuesday** at 12 noon.

September's luncheon will be on Thursday, September 21, at Glenview Country Club. Please contact Barb Bostelman at 352-753-8829, or barb.thevillages@gmail.com. Starting in October, Carol Norton will take over as coordinator. All ladies are welcome to join this fellowship/luncheon group!



to a car near you! Can you guess what it might be? The shape of the sign is a clue! Stay tuned!!



Bridge Club on Potluck Sundays at 6 p.m. Has Resumed!

If you are interested in playing, please contact Jan Coleman at 517-290-8878. If you would like refresher classes to relearn bridge, contact Jan for potluck Sunday afternoon bridge at 4 p.m.

PW Study Books have arrived!

If you have signed up to participate in PW this fall, please see Pastor Susan for a book. They are \$10 each. If you have not had a chance to answer Susan’s email about which day is best for you to meet, please reply ASAP. If you did not sign up but would like to be a part of PW, we have extra space and extra study books, so talk with Pastor Susan and we will get you in a circle! We will begin meeting in September.



“Redemptive Compassion” Workshop September 12

Love INC is sponsoring a workshop on Tuesday, September 12, from 12 noon – 3 p.m. (lunch provided) on the challenges of helping those in our communities. Learn about the times “When Helping Hurts”, and ways to help others in a more sustainable way. For information or to RSVP go to www.loveinchof.org, or call Kristen @ 352-245-8774.

5th Annual Love INC Trivia Night September 25

Monday, September 25, 6 p.m. at North Lake Presbyterian Church. \$10 per ticket, 8 players per table. Come join in the fun while raising money for a good cause!

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for 1-2 people to serve as back-up “sound techs” when Terry Becker is away on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please let Terry or Pastor Susan know. Training is provided and Terry says it is easy!



STANDING CALENDAR DATES:

- Choir Rehearsals **Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m.**
- Blood Pressure Clinic **1st Sunday of each Month, 11:30 – 12:00 noon**
- 2 Cents A Meal Offering **2nd Sunday of each Month**
- Potluck Fellowship **3rd 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.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS		
Sunday, Sept. 3	Choir Practice Communion	9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 6	Worship Committee Ministry/Mission Committee Choir Practice	9:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 10	Choir Practice Worship; 2 Cents a Meal Offering	9:30 a.m. 10:30
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Finance Committee Choir Practice	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 14	PW Circle	2:00 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Building & Grounds Committee	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	PW Circle	10:00 a.m.
Thursday, Sept. 21	Ladies Luncheon*	12:00
Tuesday, Sept. 26	PW Circle	2:00 p.m.

*Call Barbara Bostelman for reservations (753-8829); see page 5 for more details.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER RELIEF – HURRICANE HARVEY – PDA is standing by with resources and national Response Team members to offer assistance to those affected by Hurricane Harvey as soon as it is safe to do so. If you would like to donate to PDA, you may send a check to Presbyterian Church(USA), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264 and put “DR000169 – Harvey” in the memo line.