



First Presbyterian Church
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The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PUNTA GORDA
FLORIDA — ECO: A COVENANT ORDER OF EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIANS

SEPTEMBER 2017



OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE
LOVING...GROWING...GOING...in JESUS!
*Loving...God and others through worship and fellowship.
 Growing...in our understanding Jesus' and God's purposes for us through
 Bible study, and developing our ministries to serve God and others.
 Going...into God's world with His message of love and salvation through
 Jesus Christ, and with His ministries of compassion and mercy.*

Stay connected when you're away. Watch our worship service LIVE! Go to our website at: www.fpcpunta.org and click on the link "Watch services LIVE here" on our homepage.



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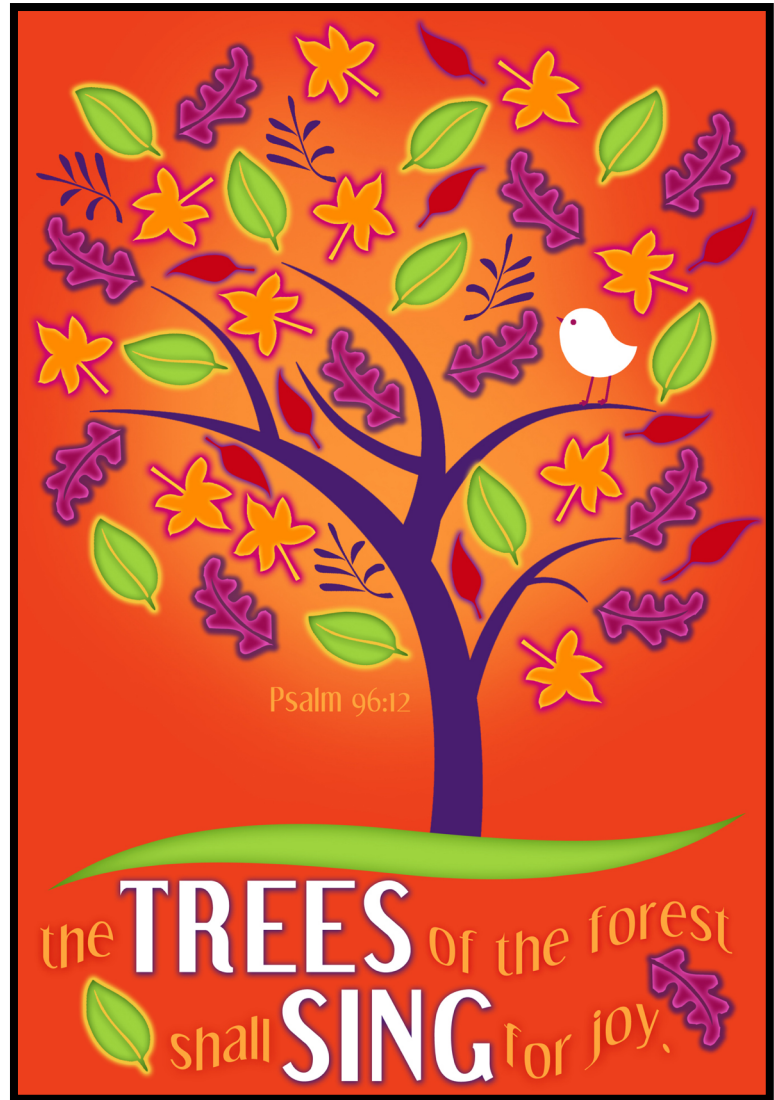
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A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH



WORSHIP MINISTRY



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

There will be one blended service
Sundays through October 15th at 10am

Our regular Sunday schedule will resume
October 22nd

9am *New Beginnings* Praise Service
10:30am Traditional Service

Choir Rehearsals resume on
Thursday, September 28th at 7pm

Session Highlights—JULY & AUGUST 2017

- 1) Membership: 110
- 2) Financials - 2017 Budget doing well for this time of year.
- 3) Suggestion for Communion each week directed to the Worship Committee.
- 4) Elected Joan Hoffman and Gail Thornton to the Nominating Committee.
- 5) Elected Marguerite O'Brien and Jay Aldridge as Commissioners to the September Presbytery Meeting.
- 6) Missions reported gifts to Crossroads Hope Academy total over \$3,500.
- 7) A Capital Fund is being considered to be used for property improvements.

UPDATE ON OUR PROPERTY

Congregational Meeting July 16, 2017

Approved to accept Peace River Presbytery's terms for the purchase of the property at 25250 Airport Road

Peace River Presbytery Meeting August 17, 2017

On Thursday, August 17, 2017, the Peace River Presbytery voted to convey the property at 25250 Airport Road, Punta Gorda, FL back to First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda, FL (ECO). With that action, a long journey to reacquire our property came to an end. Transfer of the title to the property will take place before the end of September when our lease is up. The agreement was to pay Peace River Presbytery \$165,000 and included a 15 year reverter clause that means that if we cease to operate as a church or move from our property within that period of time, the property would revert back to Peace River Presbytery. Peace River Presbytery also approved taking \$124,000 of the \$165,000 to use to help New Church Development and/or Church Redevelopment within the presbytery. They divided the remainder of the money to mission programs of the presbytery like Bethel El Mission, Cedarkirk and Misión Peniel, who will receive about \$8,000. Though not pleased with having to "buy back our property", we laud the presbytery for using the money to help others and missions rather than using it all for operations. We praise God for granting back to us the property He first gave us in 2005 so that we can continue to gather for worship and ministry, and serve our community with the love of God and good news of salvation in Jesus.

MEET OUR OFFICERS

ELDERS



DEACONS

Jay Aldridge — Administration	625-3480	Laurel Aumend — Flowers	625-5238
Nancy Beasom — Fellowship	505-9383	Margie Smith — Prayer Shawls	833-0185
Joe Brooks — Administration	231-360-5727	Georgia Cherny — Communion	456-7468
Joan Hoffman — Ministry	639-4907	Phyllis Ehrhardt — Visitation	863-884-7489
Marguerite O'Brien — Administration	639-7226	Helmut Ehrhardt — Helping Hands	863-884-7489
Dianne Sizemore — Mission	676-7086	Kay Callahan — Loaves and Fishes	916-9252
Gail Thornton — Clerk of Session	916-1726	Phyllis Richardson — Communication	575-9344
Diane Culver-Truby — Worship	637-7407	Jean Cleffi - Kitchen	639-6395
Don Washabaugh — Worship	255-8616		

MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



Pastor
Steve Mock
steve@fpcpunta.org



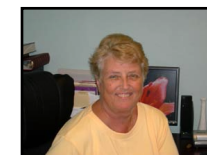
Assistant Pastor
Larry Yerger
revyerger@yahoo.com



Music Director
Randall Curtis
randy@fpcpunta.org



Office Manager
Debbie Rostad
debbie@fpcpunta.org



Volunteer Office Assistant
Gail Thornton
gail@fpcpunta.org



Volunteer Office Assistant
Dianne Sizemore
dgsizemore@comcast.net



Treasurer
Joe Cherny
cjchern321@yahoo.com

THIS 'N THAT

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



We welcome material for our church newsletter. All contributions are subject to editing with regard to the subject matter and space requirements. Articles for the **October issue** of The Messenger are due by **Monday, September 11th**.

WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE



Please join your church family in the Conference Room **Sundays at 9:40am and 6pm**. Come and share in this experience of God's people praying together.

LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY



Are you interested in making a meal when there is a short term need in the congregation due to an illness or loss?

Are you willing to deliver a meal that someone else has fixed? If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please speak to Kay Callahan, our Deacon of this ministry, or call the church office.

R.O.M.E.O.S. & J.U.L.I.E.T.S. BREAKFAST



R.O.M.E.O.S. (Retired Old Men Eating Out Someplace) and J.U.L.I.E.T.S. (Joyful Understanding Ladies Inconspicuously Eating Together Someplace) will meet for breakfast at the **Sky View Café, Punta Gorda Airport**. Meet us at **8am on Thursdays, September 7th and 21st**. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

THE SECOND CUP (OF COFFEE)



The Second Cup Bible Study discussion group is on hiatus until October.

GAME MORNING



Game Mornings are held **Tuesdays from 10am to Noon** in **Fellowship Hall**. Our September dates are **September 5th, 12th, and 26th**.

ADDRESS & EMAIL UPDATE



Please advise the church office when you change your mailing and/or email address. Thank you.

COMPUTER AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE



We've set up a computer in the Conference Room for those of you who need the use of one. It has high-speed internet access and is available during office hours. We suggest that you call ahead to reserve time.

CHURCH LIBRARY



Need a good book to read? We have a wide variety of books including a large assortment of Christian Fiction. Please stop by, take a look, and check one out!

SPONSOR SUNDAY FLOWERS



The cost to sponsor flowers is **\$37.50**. To make a donation, please sign up on the sheets in the church foyer. You may list the flowers in honor and/or in memory of something or someone. When you sponsor flowers for a Sunday and would like to take them with you after the service, please stop in the kitchen after the last service and see the deacon in charge that day.

FURRY FRIENDS



Please remember our furry friends! In the church foyer there is a green tub where you can put dog and cat food, animal toys, and gently used blankets and towels. For questions, ask Randy or Diane Curtis.

ECO SHIRTS



First Presbyterian ECO shirts are available for a \$20 donation that will go to Missions. See Pastor Steve if you would like one.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY - Fall 2017

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will reconvene on **Tuesday, September 19th at 10:00am**, and will meet the first and third Tuesday of each month through the Spring term. Our fall study is by Patricia Shirer and is called *The Armor of God*.

All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you — unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you.

The study includes a video and a daily devotional guide. As before, each session is about 1 1/2 hours long with time for discussion and fellowship. We will meet at the home of Sharon and Robert Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande, PGI.

All women are welcome!

TREASURES TABLE



Visit the Priceless Treasures table in Fellowship Hall. You may place your "treasures" there (no clothing, please); or if you find a "treasure" that you like, put a donation in the container. Proceeds are for outreach projects.

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS



Prayer Shawl Gatherings is on hiatus until November. They will then resume meeting the second Monday of each month at 10am in Fellowship Hall.

PASTOR LARRY'S WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Summer is officially over — well not until {approximately} 4:02pm on Friday, 22 September 2017 — but close enough...in any case, people will be returning from the cold frigid North — sooooo, Summer is over. One other thing which has ended, is our Study of Paul's Epistle to the Romans; but, never fear! We will be continuing our exploration and immediately diving into the deep, Deep, DEEP waters of the Epistle to the Hebrews. We will have begun this adventure by the time you receive this notice, but it matters not — you may join us at any time — so dive in with us and see the wonders contained within this small part of God's Word! Looking forward to seeing y'all there, every Wednesday at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall.

Blessings,

Patricia Shirer



A big thank you to all of you for sending prayers and cards to me after my recent medical procedure. And thank you to Laurel for bringing me the flowers that were part of the worship service on August 13th.

In Christian love, Ken Haun

NEW COVENANT PARTNERS



Bill and Sonja Dosse



Tom and Carol Kerr



Carol Zutter

LET THE LIGHT SHINE DOWN



OUT OF THE CLOUDS
CAME A LIGHT SO STRONG
THAT GIVES US JOY
WE CANNOT GO WRONG.

YOUR DOUBTS ARE GONE
YOUR TROUBLES TOO
SO LET THE LIGHT
SHINE DOWN ON YOU.

Nancy Beasom and the Holy Spirit



SEPTEMBER 2017 CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR AND CELEBRATIONS

Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders - We pray....

*The elderly, the infirm, the hospitalized, those in nursing homes, the homebound and lonely,
and all those who have requested our prayerful support.*

Each month we remember church members and friends on a rotating basis...



1	Kay Callahan	11	Diane Culver-Truby	21	Helmut & Phyllis Ehrhardt
2	Bonnie Carey	12	Randy & Diane Curtis	22	Alan Engstrom
3	David & Debbie Carney	13	Jill, Daniel, & Michael Curtis	23	John & Gail Evans
4	Marvin & Linda Caudill	14	Robert & Sharon Cuzner	24	George & Beverly Fallenbeck
5	Joe & Georgia Cherny	15	Sheila Dabney	25	Tim & Fran Farris
6	Jean Cleffi	16	Don & Anna Belle DeBlauw	26	Dick & Sandy Fisher
7	David & Cathy Coleman	17	Steve DeJong & Ellie Nicolay	27	Carol Fogg
8	Cara Coletti	18	Len & Connie Diller	28	Ray & Cheri Foley
9	Charlie & Doris Costa	19	Bill & Sonja Dosse	29	Jim & Carol Foster
10	Irene Csontos	20	John & Ramona Douglas	30	Rob & Elizabeth Frank



2—Pat Ihrrie
5—Pat Patterson
8—Joe Brooks
17—Tim Farris
26—Karen Sostar
28—Betty Strong



1—Jim & Marge Parks 25 yrs.
9—Ernie & DeAnn Lehman 56 yrs.
17—Dave & Barbara Woods 67 yrs.
28—Larry & Betty Strong 60 yrs.
30—Dick & Sandy Fisher 51 yrs.

MISSION & OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

VETERANS VILLAGE



Lauren Aumend and Gail Thornton had the privilege of celebrating the 4th of July with the Veterans who reside at the Veterans Village on Taylor Road. It was a lot of fun and a nice way to say thank you for their service. The note cards you filled out were given to the Veterans.



STONE FAMILY MISSION HIGHLIGHT

“Living Water Ministry”

In Eric Stone's words: “I went on a short-term mission trip with six guys from my home church in Winston-Salem to Antiqua, Guatemala to drill a well with Living Water Ministry. It made me reflect on the living water metaphor as it refers to the Holy Spirit. As I contemplated the hand pump that brings up the water from below, I considered all the implications in the adjective “living”. Sure, clean water promotes life. That's not too difficult. But what makes living water a metaphor for the Holy Spirit? As I concentrated, I was reminded of 1 Corinthians 13. Anything can be “living” when motivated by the Holy Spirit and His defining agape love.

There we were, a missionary, a pair of bankers, a contractor, a retail store owner, a marketing exec. and several other professionals all compelled by the Holy Spirit to participate in this project. We were a “living” team. My hope is that each of us may recognize how much more effective for God's kingdom our lives will be if it is characterized by “living” in every aspect. I want to be a “living” husband, a “living” father, a “living” son, a “living” friend, etc. Although the concept seems logical, cut and dried, if we don't keep it at the fore of our lives considering the One who gave all for us, then we easily fall back into a routine marked by self-centeredness. May we all strive for leading truly “living” lives.”

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES & MEMBER CARE



CHURCH PICNIC

Wednesday, October 25th, 4:30pm
Bayshore Live Oak Park, Charlotte Harbor
Fried Chicken provided
Bring a dish to pass, beverage, and place service
There will be games!

Congratulations to Diane-Culver Truby, great-grandma #2 to Connor Henry Focht, born on May 25th, to Jonathan and Kim Focht of Lakeland, Florida.

Congratulations to Gail Thornton, great-grandma #23 to Alley Rae Miller, born on July 17th, to Josh and Angela Miller of Oswego, Illinois.

Congratulations to Jene Shafer, great-great-grandma #5 to Hayden Faith Logan, born on July 28th, to Ryan and Heather Logan of Greensburg, Indiana.

Our prayers and sympathy are shared with the family of Mary Vincent, who went home to the Lord on July 4th.

Our prayers and sympathy are shared with Connie Diller and family, on the passing of Connie's mother Marjorie on August 6th.



New Babies



SOCIABLE SINGLES

DINNER - 1st Friday of each month

LUNCH - 3rd Friday of each month



Friday, September 1st, 5:00pm
LongHorn Steakhouse
1381 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte

To carpool, meet at the church at 4:30pm



Friday, September 15th, 11:45am
Mary Margaret's Tea & Biscuit
10 Polk Street
Arcadia

To carpool, meet at the church at 10:45am

MISSION MINISTRY



HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)



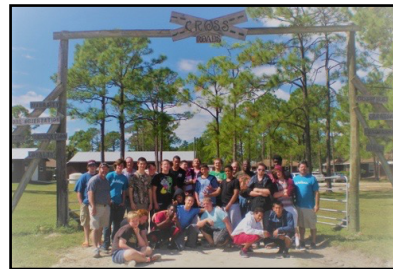
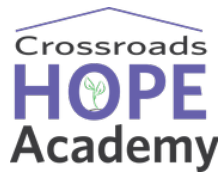
Our mission outreach to Misión Peniel in Immokalee with **Pastor Miguel Estrada** continues through the collection of food, clothing and other items as well as our monthly trips to serve at the mission. Misión Peniel needs donations of RICE and PINTO BEANS (collected the second Sunday of every month), clothing, and gently used blankets and towels. They may be placed in the plastic bin and wicker chest that are in the church foyer.

The Mission Team's next trip to Misión Peniel is **Friday, December 22nd**.

We carpool from the church at **12:15pm**.

Please volunteer to help by contacting Dianne Sizemore at 941-676-7086 or the church office.

CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)



Crossroads Hope Academy is in need of operating funds for their new phase of ministry. **We have raised over \$3,600 of our goal of \$5,000.** To make a donation, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and on the memo line write "Crossroads." To learn about volunteer opportunities at Crossroads, visit their website at www.Crossroadspg.org or talk to First Presbyterian Church member Ron Beasom.

THE STONE FAMILY (ZACAPA, GUATEMALA)

Eric and Debbie Stone are one of our missionary partners through Antioch Partners. As a family their mission is to promote Kingdom growth by serving the local church in rural areas of northeastern Guatemala by offering its leadership Biblical/Theological training and by promoting children's ministry. You can learn more about the Stones ministry at www.theantiochpartners.org. **See page 8 for a special update.**



LISA ALFONSI (LIMA, PERU)



Lisa Alfonsi was called to participate in God's mission in Peru and she is also one of our missionary partners through Antioch Partners. She uses her experience as an occupational therapist to serve the disability community and their families in a variety of ways under the leadership of a local church. Lisa is also working with Free Wheelchair Mission, assembling and distributing wheelchairs to people in need. Learn more about Lisa at www.theantiochpartners.org.

MINISTRY OUTREACH

MISSION PROJECT Punta Gorda Veterans Village



The Mission Committee's project in the Veterans Village on Taylor Road is serving by reaching out and helping the military veterans living there. These Veterans are dealing with disabilities such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and are struggling to survive.

We have decided to help the Veterans Committee each month by providing needed items and food. Dollar donations are also accepted. As a way to thank our Veterans, we have "Thank You" notecards that you can take and write on.

Laurel Aumend and Gail Thornton are coordinating this ministry here at First Presbyterian Church.

See Page 8 for a special update.

The Visitation Team will resume neighborhood visits in October. If you should greet someone at Church that is new to the area, please give them one of our newcomer Welcome Bags, located in the church foyer.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Prayer

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen.

- * Lt. Alex Treadwell, Army, grandson-in-law of Diane Culver-Truby, stationed at Fort Bragg, NC.
- * Major John McPherson, Air Force, grandnephew of Marguerite O'Brien, stationed at McChord Air Force Base in Washington State.
- * Capt. Ryan Swisher, Army Ranger, grandson of Rachel Pfaender, teaching at West Point Academy.
- * Capt. John Mock, Army, nephew of Steve & Joanie Mock, stationed at Fort Benning, GA.
- * PFC Caleb Driggers, Army, step-grandson of Diane Tabert, stationed in upper New York State.
- * SA Timothy Laux, Navy, grandson of Diane Tabert, stationed in Groton, CT.
- * Capt. Eric Engstrom, Army Intel., son of Alan Engstrom, stationed in Colorado Springs, CO.
- * Pvt. Mitchell Salicki, Army, grandson of Rex & Helen Anderson, stationed in Illesheim, Germany.
- * Sgt. Joshua Rowell, US Marine Corps, boyfriend of Dianne Sizemore's granddaughter Kylie, stationed at Navy Base Kitsap in Silverdale, WA.
- * Pvt. Harrison Raymond Klipstine, Army, great nephew of Dianne Sizemore, stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.
- * 2nd Lt. Paul Corbitt Geuy, Army, great nephew of Dianne Sizemore, attending the Ohio State University Dental School Program in Columbus, OH.
- * 2nd Lt. Zadick Self, Marines, grandson-in-law of Ron & Nancy Beasom, transferring from Kansas City to MCB Quantico in Virginia later this year.

Do you have a family member serving in the military?

If so, we'd like to add them to the newsletter prayer list. Fill out the form that's on the sign-up table in the church foyer and place it in the HELMUT or let the church office know.