



**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

NOVEMBER 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](http://www.fpcpunta.org) and click on the link "Watch services LIVE here" on our homepage.

## NOVEMBER

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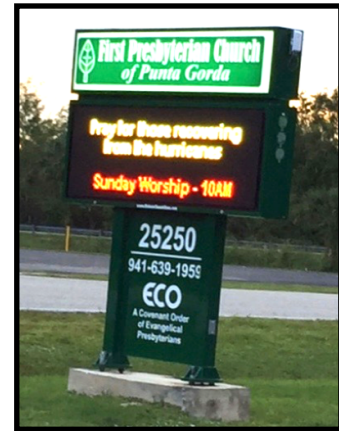


A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH





## PASTOR LARRY'S WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Never fear! Bible Study is still here! We will be continuing our exploration of God's Word and diving into the deep, Deep, DEEP waters of the Epistle to the Hebrews. We have already begun this adventure {by the time you receive this notice we'll be around Chapter 10}, but it matters not — you may join us at any time — so dive in with us and see the wonders contained within this part of God's Word!

Looking forward to seeing y'all there, every Wednesday at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall.

**NOTE: We will not meet on Wednesdays, November 1st and 8th.**

## C.L.A.S.S. 101 – “BECOMING A COVENANT PARTNER”



Pastor Steve Mock will be holding the C.L.A.S.S. 101 Becoming a Covenant Partner on Sunday, November 12th, at 3pm. Anyone interested in becoming a member/covenant partner of First Presbyterian Church is invited to attend this two-hour seminar. Topics to be covered are: our purpose for existing; our process for spiritual growth; God's plan for reaching the world; and our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Sign up in the church foyer.**

**Dedication Sunday - November 12th**

**Congregational Annual Meeting  
Sunday, November 12th, 11:30am**

## Session Highlights—OCTOBER 2017

- 1) Membership: 110
- 2) Nominating Committee has slate of officers for 2018.
- 3) Annual Congregational Meeting called for November 12th to elect new officers.
- 4) Approved Proposed Budget for 2018.
- 5) Approved nominating Jay Aldridge and Gail Thornton to be elected by Presbytery of Florida as Commissioners to the annual Synod meeting in Houston, Texas in January 2018.

## MEET OUR OFFICERS

### ELDERS



### DEACONS

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Jay Aldridge — Administration       | 625-3480     |
| Nancy Beasom — Fellowship           | 505-9383     |
| Joe Brooks — Administration         | 231-360-5727 |
| Joan Hoffman — Ministry             | 639-4907     |
| Marguerite O'Brien — Administration | 639-7226     |
| Dianne Sizemore — Mission           | 676-7086     |
| Gail Thornton — Clerk of Session    | 916-1726     |
| Diane Culver-Truby — Worship        | 637-7407     |
| Don Washabaugh — Worship            | 255-8616     |

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Laurel Aumend — Flowers            | 625-5238     |
| Margie Smith — Prayer Shawls       | 833-0185     |
| Georgia Cherny — Communion         | 456-7468     |
| Phyllis Ehrhardt — Visitation      | 863-884-7489 |
| Helmut Ehrhardt — Helping Hands    | 863-884-7489 |
| Kay Callahan — Loaves and Fishes   | 916-9252     |
| Phyllis Richardson — Communication | 575-9344     |
| Jean Cleffi - Kitchen              | 639-6395     |

## MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



**Pastor**  
Steve Mock  
steve@fpcpunta.org



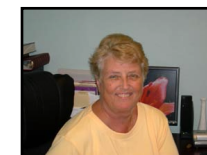
**Assistant Pastor**  
Larry Yerger  
revyerger@yahoo.com



**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 **December issue** of The Messenger are due by **Monday, November 13th**.

### WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE



Please join your church family in the Conference Room **Sundays at 10:10am 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, November 2nd, 16th, and 30th**. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

### THE SECOND CUP (OF COFFEE)



The Second Cup Bible Study discussion group meets at **9:30am** in the Conference Room on **November 2nd, 16th, and 30th**.

### GAME MORNING



Game Mornings are held **Tuesdays from 10am to Noon** in **Fellowship Hall**. Our November dates are **November 14th and 28th**.

### 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

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will continue through November and December with the study of *Armor Of God*. Our November meetings are **Tuesdays, November 7th and 21st at 10am**.

As always, we will meet at the home of Robert and Sharon Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande Dr., PGI. The study meets for 1 1/2 hours with time for fellowship and refreshment. For those who were unable to attend the first three sessions of this seven session study, we will arrange make-up sessions. **All women are welcome!**

On February 2nd and 3rd, Murdock Baptist Church in Port Charlotte is having an area wide women's event. Speakers are Liz Curtis Higgs and Jennifer Rothschild. These women are nationally recognized speakers and it is rare to have this quality of program so close to home. Cost is \$44 for groups of ten or \$49 individually. If you would like additional information, visit [www.FreshGroundedFaith.com](http://www.FreshGroundedFaith.com).

If you would like to attend, contact Sharon Cuzner.

**Reservations will go fast, so take action now.**

### 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

**Resumes Monday, November 13th**

The Prayer Shawl group meets the second Monday of each month at **10am in Fellowship Hall**. Please join us when you can. If you don't knit or crochet, perhaps you'd like to make a donation to support this ministry.

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Presbyterian Women will meet **Saturday, December 16th at 11am in Fellowship Hall** for a Christmas lunch. All women are invited. Please bring finger sandwiches or desserts to share.

For an outreach opportunity, **please bring cookies and cookie tins** for us to pack and deliver to shut-ins and veterans. This year we would like to remember the Punta Gorda Police as well, for their service to us.







# Thanksgiving

## THANKSGIVING TIME

GOLDEN TONES  
AND PUMPKINS RIPE  
TREES AGLOW  
OF EVERY TYPE.

HARVEST TIME  
LOOK HOMEWARD TIME  
AS FROM MY WINDOW  
PRAYERS TO GOD DO CLIMB.

GOD IS GOOD  
AND GOD IS GREAT  
LET US ALL SING PRAISES  
FOR OUR FATE.

FRIENDSHIP, FAMILY  
SONGS OF LOVE  
SENT TO US  
FROM HIM ABOVE.

TENDER SMILES  
AS SOFT EYES GLEAM  
FROM EACH OTHER'S  
FACE IT SEEMS.

AROUND OUR TABLE  
EACH BOWS HIS HEAD  
TO THANK OUR LORD  
FOR OUR DAILY BREAD.

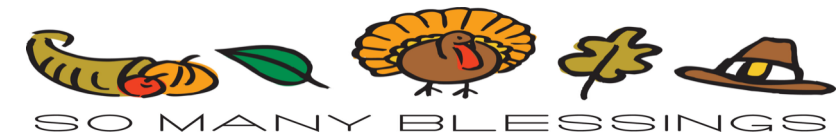
HOLY SPIRIT AND NANCY BEASOM

## NOVEMBER 2017 CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR AND CELEBRATIONS

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

*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  | Nancy Murphy             | 11 | Rachael Pfaender         | 21 | Charles Sampsel     |
| 2  | Edwina Norton            | 12 | Linda Potthoff           | 22 | Elaine Schultzf     |
| 3  | Marguerite O'Brien       | 13 | Bill & Pauli Purcell     | 23 | Veralou Scott       |
| 4  | David Osweiler           | 14 | David & Milanne Richards | 24 | Jene Shafer         |
| 5  | David & Jane Otoupal     | 15 | Ed & Phyllis Richardson  | 25 | Barbara Shinn       |
| 6  | Nelson & Florence Parker | 16 | Tom Richey               | 26 | Dave & Ella Sifferd |
| 7  | Jim & Marge Parks        | 17 | Fred & Gayle Rosa        | 27 | Lorraine Sisson     |
| 8  | Pat & Mary Ann Patterson | 18 | Jack & Patty Rothley     | 28 | Ron & Billie Sixt   |
| 9  | Bruce Peters             | 19 | Sharon Russell           | 29 | Dianne Sizemore     |
| 10 | Dick & Donna Peterson    | 20 | Barbara Ryan             | 30 | Andy & Nancy Smith  |



|                      |                            |                     |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 2—Nancy Beasom       | 7—Alan Engstrom            | 17—Milanne Richards |
| 2—Larry Mesler       | 8—Mary Kasbohm             | 17—Jerry Smith      |
| 5—Diane Culver-Truby | 12—Elizabeth Hurlow-Hannah | 19—Verna Wargo      |
| 6—Diane Curtis       | 14—Ron Sixt                | 28—Ken Haun         |
| 7—Andrea Yerger      |                            | 30—John Evans       |



|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| 5—Lee & Anne Swift      | 46 yrs. |
| 9—Rob & Elizabeth Frank | 15 yrs. |
| 29—Bill & Pauli Purcell | 8 yrs.  |



## MEMBER CARE

Congratulations to Dianne Sizemore, great-grandma #20 to Shelbi Kathryn Bright, born on October 2nd to Amanda and Frank of Flatrock, Alabama.

Congratulations to Debbie and Pete Rostad, grandparents to Lilia Elisabeth Rostad, born on October 6th to Erik and Stephanie of Atlanta, Georgia.



Our prayers and sympathy are shared with Connie Diller and family, whose sister-in-law Janice went home to the Lord on September 21st.

Our prayers and sympathy are shared with Rachel Pfaender and family, whose sister Betty went home to the Lord on October 9th.



We want to thank you so much for all the get well and birthday cards, but most of all for all the prayers sent to Ed during his illness these last few weeks. Please keep us in your prayers as he is still in need of them due to liver problems. We may be moving back to Delaware to be near family soon, but want you all to know we love you and will miss you. Thank you all again. Ed and Phyllis Richardson

## SINGLES MINISTRY



### SOCIABLE SINGLES

DINNER - 1st Friday of each month

LUNCH - 3rd Friday of each month

Friday, November 3rd, 5:00pm

The Turtle Club Restaurant  
139 W. Marion Avenue  
Punta Gorda

No Carpool



Friday, November 17th, 12:00pm

Phil's 41 Restaurant  
1975 Tamiami Trail  
Punta Gorda

No Carpool



## FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES



### POTLUCK DINNER & VIDEO Wednesday, November 15th 5:30pm

A-H - Meat I-O - Salad/Vegetable P-Z - Dessert

Fellowship Hall

"How Great is Our God"  
Video by Louie Giglio

Sign up in the Church Foyer



### DECORATE THE CHURCH!

Join in decorating the church  
for the holidays

**Friday, December 1st, 10am**

Assemble Decorations

Set up the Christmas Trees

Coffee and Donuts will be served

**Saturday, December 2nd, 10am**

Decorate the Church

A Light Lunch will be served

Sign up in the Church Foyer

### CHRISTMAS GATHERING DINNER

**Saturday, December 9th  
5:30pm**

The Fellowship team invites you to a  
Christmas Gathering Dinner  
in Fellowship Hall. Meat, beverages and  
cake will be provided. Please bring  
your favorite dish for the buffet table.

**Cary Price, Organist  
Fletcher Music**

Sign up in the Church Foyer

## MISSION MINISTRY & OUTREACH



### HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL (IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA)

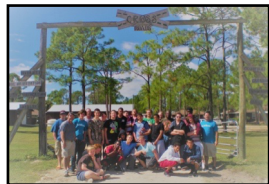
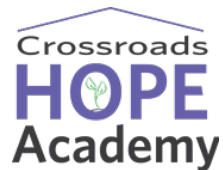
Our mission outreach to Misión Peniel in Immokalee with **Pastor Miguel Estrada** continues through the collection of food, clothing and other items as well as our trips to serve at the mission. Misión Peniel needs donations of RICE and PINTO BEANS (collected the second Sunday of every month), clothing, 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**.

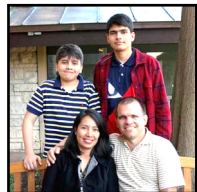
Please volunteer to help by contacting Dianne Sizemore at 941-676-7086 or the church office.

### CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)



Crossroads Hope Academy is a boarding school for foster boys ages 12-18, who have difficulty with placement in traditional foster families. To learn about volunteer opportunities at Crossroads, visit their website at [www.Crossroadspg.org](http://www.Crossroadspg.org) or talk to First Presbyterian Church member Ron Beasom.

### ANTIOCH PARTNERS MISSIONARIES



Eric and Debbie Stone are missionaries in Zacapa, Guatemala. 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](http://www.theantiochpartners.org).



Lisa Alfonsi was called to participate in God's mission in Lima, Peru. 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](http://www.theantiochpartners.org).

### WELCOME MINISTRY / VETERANS VILLAGE

The Visitation Team has resumed neighborhood visits. 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.

We are helping Veterans Village 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.



## MINISTRY OUTREACH



### THANKSGIVING GIFTING FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Thanksgiving donations for Charlotte County families through St. Vincent de Paul **continue through November 19th**. **Special Thanksgiving Gifting envelopes can be found in the church foyer or you can use a pew envelope. Every dollar helps!**

### SHOEBOX GIFTING



This year's collection of shoebox gifts for the children of Misión Peniel will begin **November 5th and continues through December 17th**. Please fill a box, mark it "boy" or "girl" and put the age on it, secure the box with an elastic band, and bring it to church. **Do not wrap it**, as we will be adding items to each box so all are filled tight. A list of suggested gifts is available on the shoebox collection table 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 in Honolulu, HI.
- \* 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.
- \* Army Recruit Brian K. Hulshoff, Army, grandson of David & Lynn Lang, stationed at Fort Benning, GA.
- \* Lt. Col. Robert C. Prijaten, US Marine Corps, son of Bob and Dona Prijaten.

*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.*