



**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

MAY 2018



## 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.



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A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH



A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH

Will you not  
*revive*  
us again, that  
your people may  
*rejoice*  
in you?  
PSALM 85:6, ESV

# WORSHIP MINISTRY



Worship  
Schedule  
for the  
Summer

## SUMMER WORSHIP CHANGE

Sunday May 20th through October 14th  
Blended (contemporary and traditional) service at 10:00am  
Our regular Sunday schedule (9:00am and 10:30am)  
resumes October 21st

# RECEPTION FOR RANDY & DIANE CURTIS



Our church has been very blessed with the talents and dedication of Randy Curtis as our Music Director. He came to us in 2004 just before Hurricane Charley, and for 14 years has directed and accompanied the Chancel Choir, has sung in and led the Praise Team, and has shared inspirational instrumental music on the organ and piano.



On *Sunday, May 20th*, there will be a farewell reception after the 10:00am service where you will have an opportunity to say *Thank You* to Randy and his wife Diane for being part of our church family sharing their talents and friendship with us.

# PASTOR LARRY'S WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Somewhere - actually *everywhere* - between Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 22:21 lies the underlying, foundational Truth of the Universe. The Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments are given by inspiration of God, to be the rule of faith and life. Our purpose in studying these ancient documents is not to just learn what they contain, but also how we apply those Truths in our daily lives, living as disciples of Jesus Christ. If you are interested in embracing these Truths, learning to apply them in a world increasingly hostile to God and changing/enhancing your life, then Wednesday mornings at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall is where you need to be. You will be challenged. You will learn. If you want to follow this path, join us - we hope to see you there!

*Blessings and Peace.....*

# MEET OUR OFFICERS

## ELDERS



## DEACONS

Nancy Beasom — Fellowship	505-9383
Marguerite O'Brien — Administration	639-7226
Bruce Peters — Administration	352-552-2324
Dianne Sizemore — Mission	676-7086
Gail Thornton — Clerk & Discipleship	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
Sheila Dabney — Communication & Library	281-0615
Jean Cleffi - Kitchen	639-6395

# MEET THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF



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



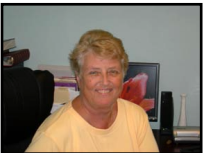
**Assistant Pastor**  
Larry Yerger  
revyerger@yahoo.com



**Music Director**  
Randall Curtis  
randy@fpcpunta.org



**Office Manager**  
Debbie Rostad  
debbie@fpcpunta.org



**Volunteer Office Assistant**  
Gail Thornton  
gthorn1941@aol.com



**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 **Summer** issue are due **May 14th**.

### 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, May 3rd and 17th**. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

### THE SECOND CUP (OF COFFEE)



The Second Cup Bible Study discussion group, led by Dave Sifferd, meets at **9:15am** in the Conference Room on **May 3rd and 17th**.

### GAME MORNING



Game Mornings are held **Tuesdays from 10am to Noon** in **Fellowship Hall**. Our May dates are **May 8th, 22nd, and 29th**.

### 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. Donations are sent to the Animal Shelter.

### 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

**Growing in Faith and Wisdom - The Book of James**



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study continues with Elizabeth George's "A Woman After God's Own Heart" study guide. We will meet on **May 1st and 15th at 10am**. Call the church or Sharon at 941-637-1792 for additional information.

We meet the first and third Tuesday of each month at 10am at the home of Sharon and Robert Cuzner, 2615 Rio Grande Dr., PGI. The study meets for 1 1/2 hours with time for discussion and refreshments. **All women are welcome!**

### PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS



The Prayer Shawl group will resume meeting in the fall. Thank you for your support of this ministry to our members and community.

### TREASURES TABLE



We are seeking donations of your "treasures" (no clothing, please) to add to the Treasures Table in Fellowship Hall. Also, please visit the table and if you find a "treasure" that you like, put a donation in the container. Proceeds are for outreach projects.

## Session Highlights - April 2018

- 1) Membership: 114
- 2) Prayer time for our church and members.
- 3) Donations to-date for "Let's Paint the Church" are \$6,931.
- 4) Accepted resignation of Elder Joe Brooks, due to health issues.
- 5) Marguerite O'Brien and Gail Thornton were elected as Commissioners to the May 19th Presbytery Meeting at All Villages Presbyterian Church in Port St. Lucie.
- 6) Elders encouraged to individually establish a time of fasting and prayer for the search of a new music director/organist.



## POETRY



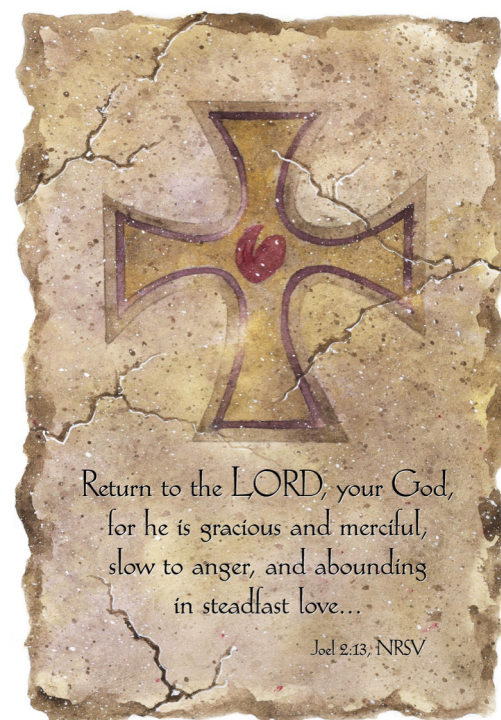
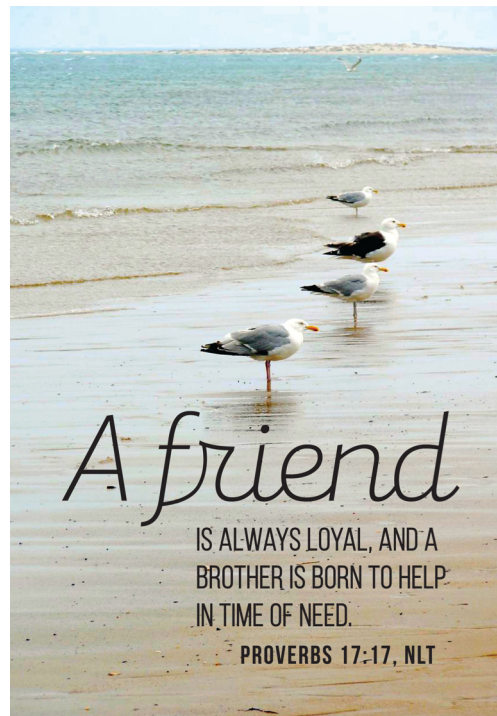
MAY WE CHERISH EVERY MOMENT  
GOD HAS GIVEN US ON EARTH  
AND OUR LIFE FILLED WITH PURPOSE  
OUR HEARTS FILLED WITH MIRTH.

MAY WE TAKE THE TIME TO LISTEN  
TO THE BIRDS AND TO THE WIND  
AND TO SMELL THE RAIN AROUND US  
SEE THE PLANTS WITH DEW THAT GLISTEN.

MAY WE HAVE SOME FRIENDS TO CARE  
WHEN WE ARE HAPPY AND ARE SAD  
AND WHEN WE WANT SOMEONE TO TALK TO  
AND OUR THOUGHTS WITH WHICH TO SHARE.

MAY WE KNOW OUR GOD IS LOVE  
EVERY MOMENT OF THE DAY  
TO TRUST AND BE WITH US  
AS WE LOOK TO HIM ABOVE.

*Nancy Beasom through the Holy Spirit*



## MAY 2018 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 Roy & Kathy Belville	11 David & Cathy Coleman	21 Len & Connie Diller
2 Shirley Berg	12 Cara Coletti	22 Bill & Sonja Dosse
3 Rick & Kay Berner	13 Charlie & Doris Costa	23 John & Ramona Douglas
4 Joe & Betty Brooks	14 Irene Csontos	24 Helmut & Phyllis Ehrhardt
5 Bonnie Brown	15 Diane Culver-Truby	25 Alan Engstrom
6 Marion Brown	16 Randy & Diane Curtis	26 John & Gail Evans
7 Kay Callahan	17 Jill, Daniel & Michael Curtis	27 George & Beverly Fallenbeck
8 Bonnie Carey	18 Robert & Sharon Cuzner	28 Tim & Fran Farris
9 Joe & Georgia Cherny	19 Sheila Dabney	29 Dick & Sandy Fisher
10 Jean Cleffi	20 Don & Anna Belle DeBlauw	30 Carol Fogg
		31 Ray & Cheri Foley

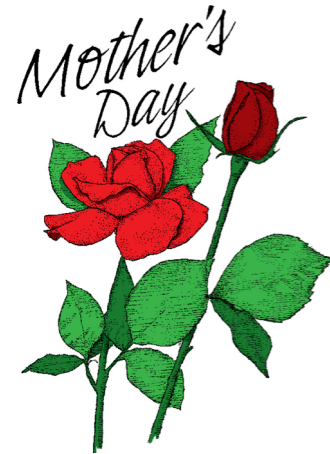


4—Connie Luther	13—Charles Sampsel	21—Anne Swift	
6—Shirley Berg	15—Sarah Stones	22—Nancy Murphy	2—George & Beverly Fallenbeck 3 yrs.
7—Jill Curtis	15—Rex Anderson	22—Charlie Costa	5—Jack & Patty Rothley 56 yrs.
11—Art Koon	17—Jay Aldridge	24—Joan Hoffman	6—Al & Susie Lorenz 46 yrs.
12—Gail Evans	19—Robert Cuzner	28—Joseph Yerger	24—Pat & Mary Ann Patterson 52 yrs.
			27—Rick & Kay Berner 51 yrs.





## MEMBER CARE



*Sunday, May 13th*



*Our prayers and sympathy are shared with Carol Crockett and family, whose husband Sam went home to the Lord on March 31st.*

*Our prayers and sympathy are shared with Marjorie Haun and family, whose husband Ken went home to the Lord on April 7th.*

## SINGLES MINISTRY



### SOCIABLE SINGLES

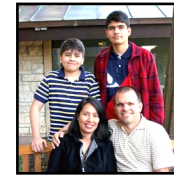
*LUNCH - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month during Season*



*Friday, May 4th, 12:00pm*  
**Sandra's Restaurant**  
 111 W. Olympia Avenue  
 Punta Gorda  
 No Carpool  
 Sign up in church foyer

*Friday, May 18th, 12:00pm*  
**Mary Margaret's Tea & Biscuit**  
 10 So. Polk Avenue  
 Arcadia  
 Meet at Church at 11:00am  
 Sign up in church foyer

## FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES



*Wednesday, May 16th, 5:30pm*

*Pot Luck Dinner and Missionary Guests*

*Eric Stone and Family from Guatemala, the missionary family we support through Antioch Partners*

*A-I Meats J-P Salads/Vegetables R-Z Desserts*



*Ice Cream Social*

*Wednesday, June 20th, 6:30pm*

*Fellowship Hall*

*Fellowship Dinner & Movie*  
**April 18th**



Picture by Joanie Mock

## 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 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.



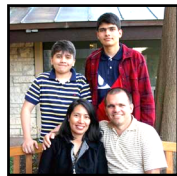
### CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY (PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA)

Crossroads  
HOPE  
Academy



John Davidson from Crossroads Hope Academy attended Celebration Sunday in February to present a plaque to our church, showing a picture of the boys at Crossroads thanking FPC for our dedication to them. 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. *Missionary ideals of community, service, and the idea of being "blessed to be a blessing" have manifested themselves in their network of ministerial relations.* **The Stones will be speaking on May 16th at our church at a Fellowship Pot Luck Dinner.**



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).

### THE GROVE CHURCH (PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA)



The Grove Church in Port St. Lucie is a new church plant of Indian River Presbyterian Church in Fort Pierce. Our church is supporting this new church plant through our missions budget. Their church plant pastor, Rev. David Hancock, reported to us that they have celebrated 15 baptisms and that it feels like all of their dreams are beginning to come true and take shape. He adds "Stories of new life are being written through the love and message of Jesus and we couldn't be more ecstatic! We love each and every one of these people and what God is doing in their lives". Visit their website at [www.thegrovechurch.com](http://www.thegrovechurch.com).

## WELCOME MINISTRY / VETERANS VILLAGE

The Visitation Team meets many different people and usually are greeted with a warm, inviting smile. They recently delivered 14 Welcome Bags to the Deep Creek and Creekside neighborhoods. Invitations to visit our church are extended to those who do not have a church home.

### Neighborhood Visitation Teams

Waterford - Pat Ihrie & Mary Anne Washabaugh    Verandas - Lynn Lang  
Tuscany Isles - Nancy Smith & DeAnn Lehman    Creekside - Susie Lorenz & Kathy Belville  
Oak Harbor - Phyllis Ehrhardt & Linda Potthoff



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.



## 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 Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.
- \* 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.
- \* Timothy Laux - ETVSN, Navy, grandson of Diane Tabert, stationed at Naval Base Kitsap in Bremerton, WA.
- \* 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 Naval Base Kitsap in Silverdale, WA.
- \* PFC 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, stationed at MCB Quantico in Virginia.
- \* PFC Brian K. Hulshoff, Army, grandson of David & Lynn Lang, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.
- \* Lt. Col. Robert C. Prijatelj, US Marine Corps, son of Bob and Dona Prijatelj and nephew of Laurel Aumend, stationed in Washington D.C.
- \* MSgt. Nick Weiss, Air Force, grandson of Gail Thornton, stationed in Qatar.

*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.*