



CROSS CONNECTIONS

June  
2018

## • ***Our Needs - and Good News***

Occasionally I am asked, “What does our church need?” Thankfully we have solved a lot of our capital requirements through the *Imagine the Future* campaign. I am grateful for your generosity.

Here are three key needs, to be addressed by additional *annually renewed pledges* to our general fund:

- 1) A Part-Time Youth Leader \$ 12,500  
This individual will guide and mentor our senior high and middle school youth on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, Wednesday evenings, and mission trips and youth conferences.
- 2) A Part-Time Tech Leader \$ 12,500  
This person will train, coordinate, and schedule our dedicated volunteers and lead the sound, video and lighting of our worship.
- 3) Music for Worship \$ 10,000  
This will provide for the gifted variety of guest instrumentalists who lead worship on Sunday mornings.

We included these needs in our 2016 general fund stewardship drive and our 2017 general fund stewardship drive. But the increases in pledging were modest (due to the deaths and moves away from Sarasota of some committed members of our church and our focus on *Imagine the Future*.)

I am also excited to share good news:

- We have now received 95% of the expected \$ 4.1 million in pledges for our *Imagine the Future* capital initiative.
- Kelly Fitzgerald, our associate pastor for family ministry, and Steven Phillips, our director of music ministries and congregational care, are working with great creativity and dedication.
- In 2017 for the first time in many years, 100% of our general fund pledges were fulfilled.
- The average pledge by our members and friends is at an all-time high.

These are all signs of health and vitality. I am grateful for the strength and momentum of our church.

As we move forward, I am confident we will serve our children, youth and families and our worship and music ministry in even more faithful ways. Your support will be a blessing to the church - and to Kelly and Steven.

Peace,

## • Love Notes

Dear Friends,

I truly appreciate all the service and community aid you provide. Brentwood Elementary School is very fortunate to have you and your volunteers. Thank you all!

Sincerely,

Lana Boardman  
Art Teacher  
Brentwood Elementary



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

## • Presbyterian Women

PW Lite meets **Tuesday, June 5** at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Flossie Paul will tell us about her mission trip to Cambodia this past January and share pictures. For insight to her experience, try reading *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright.

Save these dates for our summer activities:

**July 17** - Join us for lunch at Bay Village hosted by Pat Woody.

**August 7** - Colleen Forristall and Marilyn Tschirgi will lead us in some fun craft time.

For any questions about Presbyterian Women, please contact co-moderators Flossie Paul at (941) 536-0974 or Pamela Lamb at (941) 210-7478.

## • Summer Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

As the Academy of Christian Discipleship takes a short break over the summer, **all** are welcome to come to Summer Sunday School! This one-room school house model will give us a chance to be together as a church family and grow together in faith.

This summer we will explore together what General Assembly is all about. How are things done in the Presbyterian form of government? How are changes made? What is challenging for the church? This will be interesting for disciples of all ages and stages!

Come for one or come for all of the six-sessions: **June 3, June 10, June 17, June 24, July 1, and July 8.**



A lighthearted look  
at our beloved  
hometown

**June 8, 2018**  
**7:30 pm**

### *Featuring*

Show Tunes • Americana • Pop / Rock  
Jazz • Comedy

### *Guest appearances by*

- Vocalists Eric Waters, Jenny Kim-Godfrey, Synia Carroll, Ted Eastmoore
- Trumpeter Joe Bruno Sr.
- and many more!

with First Presbyterian choir, band, soloists,  
and the amazing new pipe/digital organ

### *Admission*

5¢ or \$500 or anything in between

Proceeds go to support local musicians  
in performance at  
First Presbyterian Church

*Reception* to follow in the courtyard

### *Location*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
2050 Oak Street  
Sarasota, FL 34237

941.955.8119

[www.firstpressarasota.org](http://www.firstpressarasota.org)

## • **Introducing Rev. Doug DeCelle**



Rev. Doug DeCelle and his wife, Jenny, have been attending First Presbyterian Church for the past year and a half. We are delighted to have them as a part of our church family and appreciate the gifts and experience in ministry they bring. Doug, a recently retired Presbyterian pastor, will be assisting our

pastoral care team this summer with pastoral care. He is pleased to be invited to be a part of this area of ministry beginning mid-June.

Doug enjoyed a fun childhood in the Los Angeles area. At age 13 his family relocated to Cincinnati, OH for his father's employment. Four years later the family moved again to Cleveland, OH. Doug attended Princeton Theological Seminary. He then married Jenny, five years after they met at the College of Wooster. After Doug's ordination in 1977, they served churches in Pennsylvania, Dayton, OH, and most recently for 14 years in LaGrange, GA. In 1995, Doug earned a doctorate at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

The DeCelles moved to Sarasota, in part, to assist with the increasing needs of Jenny's parents—long-time Sarasota residents. Since moving to Sarasota, it has been a new and unusual experience on Sundays for Doug to sit in the pew with Jenny, rather than leading in worship.

Doug and Jenny describe some of the many reasons that attracted them to First Presbyterian:

- There are so many moments when Kelly or Glen will say something [when leading in worship] that really sparkles and leaves me wondering, 'Why didn't I think of that?'
- Steven's work is brilliant. The Celtic Christmas program, the use of jazz, and the sound of Aaron Copland in the chancel are wonderfully innovative.

- Mary's mastery at the organ gives Sunday worship a lyrical feel.

- I am especially appreciative of the questing character of Glen's and Kelly's preaching, which ventures into theological territory that the entire church will be exploring in the next few years.

The warmth of the congregation and staff have also helped the DeCelles see themselves as a part of the church family. They appreciate being recognized and welcomed by the staff and members, and are regularly invited into meaningful conversation at the events they attend.

Jenny and Doug have two daughters. Their eldest, Kim, is a social worker and PhD candidate. Her husband, Mike, is the acquisitions editor for theology and church history with Rowman and Littlefield. Their younger daughter, Kristen, works remotely in public health. Her husband, Ifelayo, is a pediatrician. Their daughter, Morayo, the DeCelles' grandchild, is two and a half. The three of them just finished a four-month volunteer stint in Mbingo, Cameroon, where Ifelayo served as a pediatric physician.

The DeCelles have become involved with the Manasota Interracial Book Club, which Doug describes as "a grand undertaking involving sensitive outreach." They love the Sarasota lifestyle, which includes walking and biking. Doug enjoys swimming as well. He also does early morning blogging, where he oversees a page with announcements for the book club. Jenny spends much time with her parents. She enjoys being hostess for friends and family who vacation in Sarasota. She also loves birds and owns a parrot.

Both Doug and Jenny are looking forward to their continued fellowship with the First Presbyterian congregation. Be sure to introduce yourself and get acquainted—you'll be glad you did!

## • News From Invest in Children



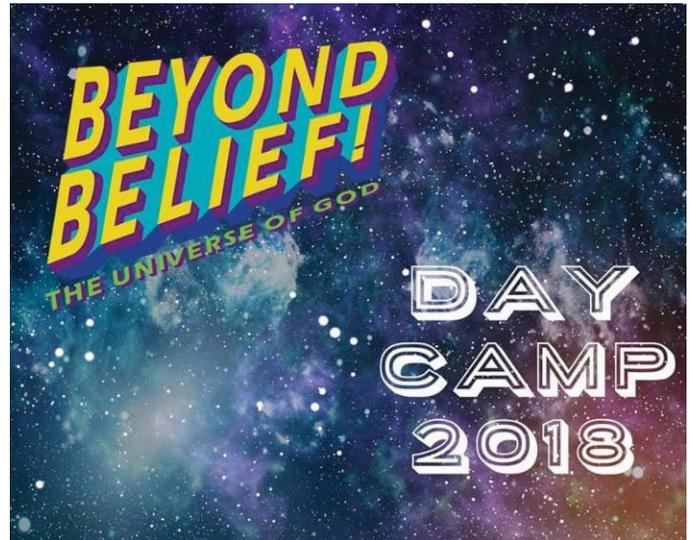
May was a busy month for *Invest in Children*, starting off with a unique art show presented by the faculty and students of Brentwood Elementary School. On Sunday, May 6, a joyful mix of students, parents and members and friends of First Presbyterian gathered in the forum, transformed by the creativity of Brentwood children into a wonderful gallery of artistic expression. The show which remained in place for a week was coordinated by First Presbyterian volunteers Diane and Bob Bittner and art teacher Lana Boardman in the church's ongoing partnership with Brentwood.

On Saturday, May 12, four athletic members of First Presbyterian were cheered on as they participated in the annual McInWood 5K Fun Run, a fundraiser for All Faiths Food Bank, McIntosh Middle School and Brentwood Elementary School.

Even though the regular school year is now over, several volunteers from First Presbyterian will be helping students at Brentwood's summer school from June 4 through July 16. What a wonderful summer commitment!

During the lazy, hazy days of the next couple of months, don't forget to save the Box Tops for Education that can be found on hundreds of items, such as cereal boxes, cleaning products, snacks and paper products.

Look for the small coupon on the box top, clip it and deposit the box tops in the bright containers in the sanctuary narthex, the fellowship hall entry, chapel or church office. The program of saved box tops translates into substantial dollars for Brentwood.



**July 30 - August 3**

**Day Camp Is Out of This World**

**We can't wait to see you!**

Day Camp at First Presbyterian Church is an amazing adventure - unlike any other church camp in town! We partner with Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center to bring in exceptional camp counselors to work with our children. Alongside our church volunteers, we strive to provide a nurturing environment for kids to experience a week of camp activities, Bible study and outdoor fun - all right here in Sarasota!

Full-Day Program (9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.) for children who are rising kindergarten through 5th grade. Day Camp cost: \$100

Half-Day Program (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) for preschoolers who have turned three by April 2018 and are potty trained. Day Camp cost: \$50

There are volunteer opportunities for youth and adults! Parents who volunteer may use half-day nursery care for children who are not old enough for camp.

Please contact Kelly Fitzgerald with any questions [KFitzgerald@firstpressarasota.org](mailto:KFitzgerald@firstpressarasota.org)



## • **Living a Purpose - Driven Life**

*submitted by Cheryl Track,  
RN-BC, Faith Community Nurse*

The impact of cancer on one's life is not only disruptive, but can negatively impact one's ability to pursue life goals. Life goals give meaning to a person's life and are important in the development of one's identity.

Member, Jack McDonald, shared a goal he recently achieved in the midst of his cancer. I could not stop smiling from the picture and story he shared showing his witness of tenacity, strength, and hope:

*"The big thing for me concerning this walk/run was whether I would even be able to do it. After 8 months of chemo from May 2017 to Jan 2018, I am still feeling the side effects: fatigue, balance issues and peripheral neuropathy, especially in my hands, lower legs and feet. While receiving chemo, I was going to twice-weekly physical therapy sessions, which ended shortly after the chemo did. Now I'm trying to go to LA Fitness 2 or 3 times a week to do treadmill, weights and balancing sets. After the race started, and I realized that running with what felt like uncontrollable concrete boots for feet was impossible, I just started walking as fast as I could without falling forward on my face. When I finished the first mile in 20 minutes, I knew I had a chance to do the whole course (5K = 3.1 miles) in around an hour.*

*I felt exhausted but really good when I finished. Sitting for a few minutes and chugging a banana smoothie helped a lot. I felt good that I could set a goal for myself and reach it. The active work of doing the race also took my mind off the mental baggage I sometimes feel I'm carrying with the side effects and the overall situation.*



*I am quite sure that being in the thoughts and prayers of everyone at FPC and in our circle of family, friends and acquaintances played a big part in my being able to do this event and continue my recovery."*

Jack also shared that after being gone for a year due to his health, he will be returning to Mote Marine, volunteering in the research lab!

The emotions and feelings that come with the experience of reaching a goal are intensely personal. Some people feel validated that they "still have it," some are reminded of the person they were before cancer, some are strengthened by achieving a huge accomplishment, and others take joy in the simple pleasure they can be a part of a life-changing event.

### **Tips for Goal-Setting**

- Be kind and patient with yourself.
- Practice gratitude.
- Celebrate effort, not just accomplishments.
- Focus on self-care; how you can nurture your mind, body and relationships.
- Recognize positive milestones.
- Seek support from someone you can check with weekly to create accountability.
- Start small; don't create stress.
- Write down your goals, breaking them down into small, manageable chunks.

Taken from Piedmont Healthcare, *Goal-Setting During Your Cancer Journey*

## • **Cowden Smith Library News**

**Cancer - Now What?** by Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., M.Div. is on the new books shelf of our library. It is a practical, caring guide that helps those with a diagnosis of cancer and their loved ones navigate the medical, emotional, relational and spiritual challenges they may encounter. Dr. Haugk is the founder of Stephen Ministries.

**Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes** by William Bridges is an essential guide for coping with the inevitable changes in life, including those brought on by illness, but also changes brought on by relationships or work life. Transitions begin with endings and then taking steps to move into a hopeful future and new beginnings. This book is also in our church library located on the second floor of the administration building.

## • **New Member Bios**

*submitted by Mary Elle Hunter, membership committee*



**Jaime and Michael Bressan** became members of First Presbyterian Church in March. They were looking for a new church to call home when they entered their daughter in First Presbyterian's preschool.

The Bressans were married five years ago, having first met when Jaime moved to Sarasota. Originally from Virginia, both she

and Michael have degrees from the University of Florida, although they didn't attend at the same time. Now Jaime's career is a homemaker, and devoted mother of the couple's two children – Olivia, who is 3 1/2 (pictured with Jamie) and Elijah, who is 1.

Michael, who grew up in Pennsylvania, has degrees from Gannon University and Pepperdine University and gained his law degree from the University of Florida. Currently a partner with Shumaker, Loop and Kenderick in their Sarasota office, he has been practicing since 2005 and focuses on litigation of business disputes.

Jaime and Michael were drawn to membership at First Presbyterian through Pastor Kelly Fitzgerald's talks at preschool luncheons. Also, they were attracted to what the Presbyterian Church stands for and believes. After attending services for several Sundays, they appreciated the welcome they received from the members and Pastor Glen Bell and the opportunities for involvement for their whole family.

They are happy to call First Presbyterian Church their new home.



**Joan and Dale Learn** were part of the new member class that joined First Presbyterian Church in March. They have been residents of Sarasota since September 2017 and plan to make it their

permanent home. Previously, the couple was living in Connecticut – in Ridgefield, Westport and Stratford.

Graduating from Mercy College in Westchester,

New York with a BS degree in Psychology, Joan spent 35 years with career/outplacement firms in New York, Boston and Norwalk, Connecticut, and had her own firm for ten years in Greenwich. Currently, she has her own consulting company, focusing on career counseling, and as a Certified Retirement Coach, she helps individuals prepare for the years after they leave the work place.

Dale has a BS degree in Industrial Engineering from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. He began his career working for IBM, then started his own company, Information Science, Inc. Following its sale, he started another business, named General Database Technology.

An interest in art and a writer of short stories and poems is how Dale describes his hobbies, while Joan says her hobby is her work. She is presently meeting with several clients, assisting them with their job search, and she is also exploring volunteer opportunities in the area.

The Learns have four grown children, twin sons and two daughters and eight grandchildren. One daughter and her husband live on Longboat Key, and Dale and Joan are pleased to have them so close by.

They visited several churches when they first moved to Sarasota, but they were drawn to First Presbyterian by the excellent sermons and the wonderful music, but most of all, they felt so welcomed by Rev. Bell and Rev. Fitzgerald.

**Nick and Amy Stine** joined First Presbyterian Church in March. Ten-year residents of Sarasota, the couple have two children - Zoey who is three years old and one-year old Carter.

Amy is originally from Pennsylvania. She graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a liberal arts degree and went on to get a Master's degree from University of Florida in Business Management. She held training and management positions with the exclusive clothing store, lululemon athletica, but is now a stay-at-home mom.

Nick, a New Jersey native, played baseball and received an undergraduate degree from the College of New Jersey. He is currently a Diabetic Care Specialist with Novo Nordisk, and also volunteers his time with JDRF, Type 1 Diabetes Research and Funding in surrounding communities.

cont. page 7

• **New Member Bios** (cont. from page 6)

The couple's hobbies are centered around keeping up with their children, but they do manage to get in a round of golf or attend a yoga class, when time allows.

The Stines, who were brought up in the Catholic church, became aware of First Presbyterian through their daughter, Zoey, attending First Presbyterian Preschool. They were drawn to becoming members of the church by what Amy calls "the wonderful and laid-back church community."

• **College/Continuing Education/  
Technical School Scholarships**

Scholarship money is available for the upcoming school year. Interested students and families should pick up an application from the church office and return it by July 15. Transcripts, including those from the spring 2018 semester, should be included or forwarded as soon as available. Returning applicants need only to update their grades and contact information. All college and technical school students are encouraged to apply.

stephen  
MINISTRY.

Christ caring for people  
through people.

• **Thank You,  
Stephen Ministry**

**A Care Receiver's Experience**

*"I was one of the most fortunate recipients of our church's Stephen Ministry care just over a year ago. My caregiver's faithful visits, calls, prayers, encouraging words, and confidential chats meant so much to me during my recovery following surgery. It was a truly blessed experience. Thank you, First Presbyterian and Stephen Ministry leaders and Stephen Ministers."*

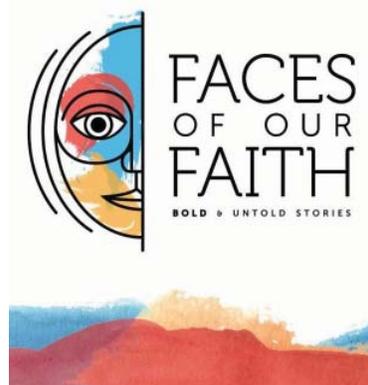
If you would like a Stephen Minister to call on you, a loved one, or a friend, please contact Pastors Glen Bell or Kelly Fitzgerald or Steven Phillips.

To learn more about the Stephen Ministry program, go to [firstpressarasota.org](http://firstpressarasota.org) and find the "Stephen Ministry" category in the linear menu. Click on it to learn about this important confidential, one-on-one ministry that is available to you.

• **Summer Study Journal**

There are many heroes of faith, people we admire and wish to be. However, there are even more ordinary people of faith - those doing what they can with what they have to make a difference. This summer, we'll dig deep into the bold and untold stories of those often overlooked biblical narratives, hoping these characters remind us that we all play a role in shaping God's story of redemption and grace.

Email Kelly (KFitzgerald@FirstPresSarasota.org) or call the church office (941) 955-8119 to request a copy today. We will send you a bundle in the mail.



• **Enjoy the Convenience of  
Electronic Giving**

First Presbyterian Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and friends and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

**Direct Debit Giving** is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

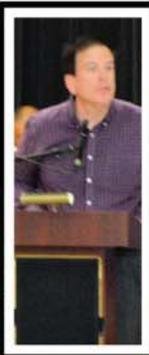
**Credit and Debit Card Giving** lets you make offerings automatically on a predetermined schedule using a credit or debit card.

**Online Giving** lets you go to [www.firstpressarasota.org](http://www.firstpressarasota.org) at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving.

# SURE

SARASOTA  
UNITED  
FOR  
RESPONSIBILITY  
AND  
EQUITY



SAVE the DATE  
MONDAY  
MARCH 23, 2019  
NEHEMIAH  
ASSEMBLY



MAKE A DIFFERENCE



• **Birthdays**

1	Blake Williams	15	Adam Martin	23	Leslie Lindell
	Kathie Dodge		Bobby Dorshaw, Jr		Diane Johnston
	McKayla Taaffe		Kat Brass-Piper	24	Janet Clark
2	Juliet Noble		Annette Landes		David Young
	Heather Blanton	16	Stephen Mitchell		Cheryl Track
	Jeff Bartell		Steve Dean		Bettie Parry
3	Donna Phillips	17	Dennis McSweeney	26	Jesse Adumuah
4	Thyra Schwab		Reva Mitchell		David Clapp
	Tom Hanway	18	Chuck Holmes, III	27	Bill Rickloff
5	Bill Dunn		Judy Kuebbeler		Dottie Goodale
	Bill Fulton		Ryken Miller		Susan McDonald
6	Jinny Miller		Willie Sutton		James Taylor, II
	Lilly Dean		Kevin Jean		Brooke Saba
7	Rebecca Clissold		Emory Frandsen	28	Suzie Barnwell
8	Rich Dulaney, Jr	19	Barb McSweeney		Matt Bretoi
	Sarah Raynor		Jennifer Contreras	29	Becky Allen
9	Diane Bittner		Dorothy Murphy		Hal Davidson
10	Twila White		Katie Saba		Gary Gering
	Connor Landers		Steven Gaeta		Christine Mathis
11	Wendy Miller	20	Sara Schwartzkopf	30	Dee Stottlemeyer
12	Dick Webb, IV		Deborah Downs		Aubrey Weedman
	Robbi Lyn Armstrong		Heather O'Neill		Phyllis Kennette
	Paul Klick, III		David Morris		Judy Rhoades
	Jeanne Manser		Karen Eber Davis		
	Bonnie Strickland		Gay Tennis		
13	Marilyn Barkley	21	Cooper Davis		
	Phyllis Ewald		Patrick Mitchell		
	Bryan Loyless	22	Andrea Mack		
	Dick Aubry		Elliott Johns		
			Mary Mozelle		

• **Anniversaries**

8	Ron & Jinny Miller	20	Ed & Rebecca Clissold
9	Thom & Janet Olshewsky	21	Kent & Sara Miller
10	Bill & Emily Rickloff		Kyle & Allison Mendenhall
	Don & Jane Wright	22	Tom & Barb Andrews
11	Bob & Nancy Lindsley		George & Merle Chorba
	Chuck & Linda Hollen		Steve & Erin Dean
	Roger & Mary Cady		Jim & Marcia Brown
12	Roy & Jennifer Yahraus	24	Bill & Kay Dunn
	Tom & Margaret Noble	25	Thomas Friedman & Charlotte Davis-Friedman
13	Mark & Jean Martin	26	Dwight & Donna Ferguson
14	Bradford & Leona Nees		Phil & Harriette Humphreys
	Jim & Dorothy Murphy	27	Richard & Edith Phillips
	John & Marilyn Wadsworth		Gary & Debbie Williams
15	Phil & Judy Kuebbeler	28	George & Gail Buermann
	Vance & Dana Bauer	29	Lamar & Jan Matthews
	Thomas & Rachel Martin		Jim & Elaine Barnett
	Jerry & Anna Bedford		Graham & Linda Hart
17	Roy & Betsy Chapman		Bill & Nancy Racine
19	Steve & Ann Wright		



**Blessings from  
your church family**



## Cross Connections

First Presbyterian Church  
2050 Oak Street  
Sarasota, FL 34237-7093

(941) 955-8119

[www.FirstPresSarasota.org](http://www.FirstPresSarasota.org)

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### **Green**

Going paperless not only helps the environment, it helps FPC save money and is convenient for you. At FPC, you can receive information via email in three ways:

- *News@First* is a weekly newsletter sent out on Friday. It highlights upcoming events.
- *First In Focus* is a monthly email with pictures of many of our activities.
- *Cross Connections*, our monthly publication, lets you know about activities at church and has special interest articles, "Love Notes" from members, and a calendar of birthdays and anniversaries for that month.

In addition to receiving electronic communications, you can also make your contributions electronically.

If you are interested in receiving the weekly, or monthly newsletters, or *First in Focus* via email, or if you would like to sign up for online contributions, contact Lisa Garcia at [LGarcia@FirstPresSarasota.org](mailto:LGarcia@FirstPresSarasota.org) or call (941) 955-8119.

**Cross Connections** is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Florida, Volume 36 Issue #6. Please submit articles for the next issue by June 15, 2018. Articles submitted are proofed and edited.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SARASOTA, FL 34237**  
**(Approved by Session August 2009)**  
**(Revised May 2018)**

**HURRICANE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE PROTOCOL**

**A. Immediately prior to an event (2 days)**

1. Email to church members a pastoral letter and the protocol.
2. Staff and property ministry team prepare offices and buildings.
3. Faith community nurse checks on special needs members; deacons will help as needed.
4. Staff takes steps to prepare for alternate location if necessary.
5. Staff, session & Disaster Coordinator share proposed shelter location arrangements (where they will go if unable to stay at home).

**B. During**

BE SAFE

**C. Immediately following an event**

1. Pastors, staff and session members are in touch with each other.
2. Faith community nurse contacts special needs members; deacons will help as needed.
3. 24, 48, and 72 hours after a storm at 5:00 p.m. members who can will meet at the church for prayer, checking in, communication, coordination and need sharing.
4. Pastors, operations manager, property ministry team will begin its triage (secure buildings ASAP).
5. As soon as possible, hold a church staff meeting.
6. As soon as possible, the moderator of session will call a session meeting.

**D. Peace River Presbytery involvement**

1. As soon as possible, the first or second contact person will call the Presbytery office (1-800-736- 4488) to give initial assessment to the Presbytery Disaster Preparedness and Response team (DP&R) of their church, staff, and congregation.
2. 48 hours (the second day) after a storm at 3:00 p.m., all pastors in the affected area will meet at one of the following: ► **First Bradenton**, ► **Church of the Palms (Sarasota)**, ► **Presbytery office (North Port)**, ► **First Fort Myers**, or ► **Moorings Presbyterian (Naples)** to check in with a coordinator from the PRP DP&R leadership team, talk about next steps, and pray.
3. 72 hours (3 days) after an event, pastors and other concerned folk will meet at the Presbytery office (if damaged, then Church of the Palms, Sarasota, or Moorings Presbyterian) for debriefing, prayer, and beginning recovery work.