



CROSS CONNECTIONS

September  
2017

### • *Living Out Our Call*

A month ago, I had the privilege and pleasure of preaching for the installation of Rev. Wally Johnson, the new pastor at Northminster Presbyterian Church in north Sarasota. Northminster is a lovely congregation, and Wally will be a blessing to them in the years to come.

Wally and his wife, Joyce, have five children, and two of the five live near Tulsa, Oklahoma. Eastern Oklahoma has been their family's home for the last thirty-six years. Thirty-six years! It takes great courage and determination, based on God's call and direction, to leave home and set out for a new place thirteen hundred miles away.

Answering God's call, responding in trust, moving forward (even when we are not completely sure of the direction) is not just the commitment of pastors. Living out our call is the joyful opportunity of each follower of Jesus.

One of the ways we do this is by responding generously to the invitation of the church for our time, talents and financial resources. Talents: Our beautiful new chancel furniture reflects the woodworking abilities of our member, Daryl Alsum. Time: Dozens of you give your valuable time as deacons, elders, committee members, church school teachers, youth advisors and office volunteers. Resources: Our church simply could not function without your financial gifts. Your gifts make it possible to feed the hungry, support missions in Sarasota and around the world, and surround the discouraged with support.

I am blessed each week to serve alongside Kelly, Steven, Cheryl, Clare, Mary, Rachel, Lisa and Pam. Each of them is gifted, dedicated and quite conscientious. One of my biggest hopes is that - thanks to your generosity and increased gifts - we can provide them with a raise for 2018.

Please do prayerfully offer your best in our fall stewardship annual fund campaign. Discover the courage and determination to answer God's call. Together we will make a difference in the name of Jesus Christ!

Peace,

OPEN  
hands

OPEN  
hearts



Stewardship  
is heart work



## • **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.

## • **Congregational Meeting**

There will be a congregational meeting on **Sunday, September 17**, at noon, for the purpose of electing church officers for the class of 2020. Please plan to attend this brief but important meeting.

## • **GriefShare**

**13-week Grief Support Group, Starting Friday, September 8, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

GriefShare is for those who are grieving the loss of a spouse, child, family member or friend. This program is open to the community, so please invite anyone you know who may be in need of support.

You are welcome to begin attending at any session, so don't be discouraged if you can't attend all 13 weeks. You will find encouragement and hope whenever you begin.

Please call the church office, (941) 955-8119, to reserve your space and workbook. The cost of the workbook is \$20. For more information, please contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, (941) 320-3828, [4tracks@comcast.net](mailto:4tracks@comcast.net)

Here are some comments about GriefShare from past participants:

*Excellent topics, gave me a sense of hope, knowing God was always in the picture.*

*The program has been a Godsend to me. I recently moved here and the group was very supportive.*

*Helped me to join in and share my grief. Wonderful people. The program helped me realize I am normal.*

## **Mark Your Calendar:**

SunCoast Bloodmobile will be at First Presbyterian **Sunday, September 17**, 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Call the office to make your appointment. Bring a friend!

Flu shots will be offered on **Sunday, September 24**, 9:30-11:00 a.m.



• **Capital Campaign Update  
September 2017**



**Sanctuary**

- Custom cabinets for the narthex have been delivered.



- The hearing loop was repaired and reinstalled.

**Administration Entrance**

- The steel framework for the interior stairwell is complete and concrete fill has been poured. The handrails are being installed.



- Installation of the new flooring is almost complete.
- The glass window for the reception desk has been installed.

**Back Hallway**

- The ramp and steps have been poured – waiting for the permanent handrails.

**Mission**

- The following letter was received from Leisa Wagstaff, PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker in Juba, South Sudan.

*Dear Partners in Mission,*

*Somehow the South Sudanese continue to have hope. It is hard, though, when looking at the harsh realities of their lives within a shattered socio-economic and political setting: no food, water, adequate medical care, crops in the fields, dwellings to call “home,” opportunities to study or generate income, worry-free moments, family structures or communities to lean upon, or peace. Yet they persevere and always acknowledge God’s amazing grace and mercy. What a witness to the world!*

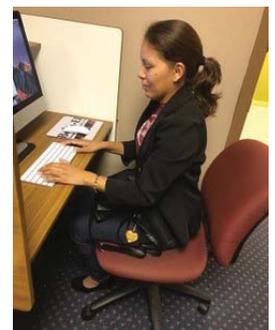
*Thank you for your prayers and other forms of support that are encouraging our friends here to keep faith and not lose hope. You, too, are witnessing to the world your belief in the redeeming power of God’s love. Thank you, again.*

*In ministry together, Leisa*

- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Inc. – The monies sent at the end of 2016 have been used to support the start of their *Step Up for Success Program* with a one-on-one mentoring to help farmworkers move out of poverty, to increase Beth-El’s capacity to feed farmworkers (now 500 -700 people are fed weekly), and to set up a dental clinic for those who are uninsured. The clinic is the first step in their health and wellness program and will begin seeing clients this fall.



Clients receiving computer training and mentoring for the Beth-El resource coordinator.



cont. on page 4

• **Capital Campaign Update - September 2017** (cont. from page 3)

- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center has just completed the first year of receiving pledges for a three year capital campaign. They have now met one-million of a four-million-dollar goal. The monies that FPC is providing will be used in the renovation of Cedar lodge.

- Members of Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch, held their groundbreaking ceremony for the new sanctuary on April 9, 2017. Site work is expected to begin in September.



Pastor Elizabeth Deibert with members of Peace Presbyterian Church at the ceremonial groundbreaking of their new sanctuary.



Did you notice? The beloved lion head marble bench, that has been part of the north courtyard for over 35 years, has returned! Damage occurred from exposure to the elements and when it was moved during campus renovations. It was repaired and reinstalled by International Artistic Stone, Inc, Sarasota. The repair was paid for by memorial gifts and an extra above and beyond gift.





## • **Presbyterian Women Activities**

On **September 12**, at 9:30 a.m. there will be a coordinating team (CT) meeting and at 10:30 a.m. there will be the women's Bible study.

On **Wednesday, September 13**, at **12:00 p.m. (note time change)** the PW Luncheon will be hosted by the Mary Martha Circle at Der Dutchman Restaurant (3713 Bahia Vista Street). Reservations must be received by Marti Clapp (941) 359-8097 or the church office (941) 955-8119 no later than Monday, September 11. We will order off the menu "dutch treat." All women are welcome.

### **Save the dates:**

- Tuesday, October 3, PW Lite
- Monday, November 6, PW Gathering
- Saturday, December 2, Advent Retreat

For more information on any of these events, please call co-moderators Pamela Lamb (941-727-2685) or Flossie Paul (941-536-0974).

## • **Pack-the-Choir-Loft Sundays, September 3 and 10**

Ever wanted to experience the worship service from a different angle? Steven Phillips and the choir are inviting you to join them in packing our choir loft on the first two Sundays of September. Come one or both times. No experience is necessary; everyone is welcome, and there's no ongoing commitment. Families can sit together in the choir loft, and children and students are very welcome. Anyone of any age is invited! Just show up in the sanctuary for a 10:00 a.m. practice on September 3 and/or September 10. The music will be fun and easy to sing.

Check it out:

- **September 3** - *Down to the River to Pray* - a folk hymn from the movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*
- **September 10** - *Somebody's Calling My Name* - a swinging spiritual with upright bass

Let's pack the choir loft and make a memorable September!

## • **New Members Bios**

*submitted by Jane Nicholl, elder membership committee*



Pensacola, Florida.

Kari has been a member of Presbyterian churches along the way. While living in Georgia, she joined the First Presbyterian Church of Marietta and was active in youth programs with her two sons and Sunday school for toddlers. Later she joined the First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola where she was part of the PW knitting group and participated in their outreach program. With her children and grandchildren living in our area, the drive from Pensacola became less interesting and she made the decision to relocate to Sarasota.

Kari enjoys different crafts such as knitting and sewing, and is a baker too. She also loves spending time at the beach. She has always been interested in history and Florida history will be an interest she intends to explore. Kari is impressed with our church's involvement in Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE) and looks forward to contributing her skills and knowledge in support of this program.





• **Missions Fair October 1,  
World Communion  
Sunday**

*by Sue Hargis Spigel,  
mission and justice member*

The mission and justice team presents the 2017 Missions Fair on October 1, in the courtyard and the fellowship hall, following the one-combined World Communion Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. If you've ever wondered about the many programs the church supports, don't miss this fair. Learn about international, national, and local missions and maybe even find new opportunities to serve.

There will be tables representing programs such as the work of the Presbyterian Church USA around the world, missionaries in Indonesia and Nicaragua, CEPAD (translated as Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua), Plant with Purpose, and RHINO (Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans). We are hoping to have a missionary couple here as well! Florida and local ministries will be well represented: Beth El Farmworker Ministry, Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Family Promise, Resurrection House, Caritas, SURE, and Invest in Children, to name a few.

You will find fun, easy, and tasty ways to participate at the fair. Look for our familiar Fair Trade booth selling coffee, tea, olive oil, and chocolate. Also, we will display Pal Craft Aid's beautiful hand-embroidered crafts from Bethlehem and olive wood carvings from the West Bank available for purchase. For the youth, there will be a bingo game with prizes! Booths will have activities for younger kids too. Because no church activity is complete without nourishment, food trucks will be on hand to sell hot dogs, ice cream, and offerings from the Rosemary restaurant!

Are you interested in missions, justice, and peace? Join us! The missions and justice committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.



• **Think On These Things**

**Psalm 103**

*Bless the Beloved, O my soul,  
and all that is within me;*

*I bless your Holy Name!*

*Bless the Beloved, O my soul,  
and remember the goodness of Love.*

*You forgive our stubbornness;*

*You heal our disease,*

*You save us from the snares of fear,*

*You crown us with steadfast Love and Mercy.*

*You satisfy our every need*

*and renew our spirit like the eagle's.*

*Through You comes peace and justice  
for all who are oppressed.*

*You make known the pathway of truth,  
and guide us on the Way.*

*You are merciful and gracious,  
quelling our anger with your patient Love.*

*You love us more than we can ask or imagine;  
in truth, we belong to You.*

*As far as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your loving response*

*toward those who are humble;*

*So far does your enduring strength uphold  
those who face the darkness within.*

*As parents are concerned for their children,  
so You come to those who reach out in faith,*

*For our ways are known,*

*our weaknesses seen with compassion.*

*The Beloved's home is in our hearts,  
as we discover in the Silence.*

*Bless the Beloved, all you people, those who  
abandon themselves into Love's hands!*

*Praise the Beloved, praise all of Creation!*

*Praise the Beloved, O my soul.*

*Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*

*Nan C. Merrill*

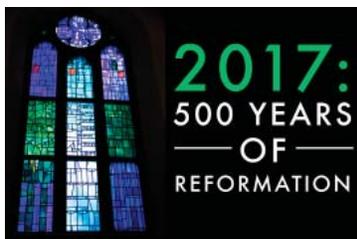
## • **500 Years of Reformation**

As Presbyterian Christians, you and I are a part of three overlapping traditions. We are heirs of the Catholic tradition, giving thanks for the early Christian church. We are Protestants, descendants of those who rediscovered their Christ-centered identity during the Reformation of the 1500s. And we are Reformed, spiritual children of John Calvin and others who emphasized the sovereign grace of God.

Although there were several important Reformers who responded faithfully to some of the excesses and mistakes of the Catholic church in the 1300's and 1400's (Jan Hus among them), scholars agree that the Protestant Reformation began on October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther published his Ninety-Five Theses in the university town of Wittenberg, Germany. Luther pointed out the inappropriate practice of the church selling indulgences for forgiveness (certificates which assured the buyer of forgiveness in exchange for payment). Instead Luther emphasized the central importance of inner spiritual repentance and the amending of one's life.

Martin Luther went on in 1520 to publish three seminal works, *The Freedom of a Christian*, *On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church* and *To the Christian Nobility*. Along with John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, first published in 1536, these works became foundational for the Protestant Reformation.

Next month on Sunday, October 29, 2017, we will mark the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. In preparation, we are placing several helpful resources in our church library, recommended by Dr. Maurice Luker. There are 2 DVDs, *This Changed Everything: 500 Years of Reformation* and *A Reformation Overview*. In addition, there are five other resources in magazine format, *Luther Leads the Way*; *A Reformation Timeline*; *The People's Reformation*; *Calvin, Confessions and Councils*; and *The Catholic Reformation*. Please stop by the library and take them home for your review.



## • **Invest in Children A Huge Thank You!**

The response of First Presbyterian Church members to a call for school supplies for the 600 students at Brentwood Elementary School (BES) was overwhelming! According to Assistant Principal Patti Folino, "It has always broken my heart on the first day of school when I see some kids get off the bus without a backpack when so many others are carrying bulging backpacks."

"But not this year! An amazing supply of supplies, like nothing we ever have had before, waited for distribution so that all of our students benefited from the thoughtfulness of your members."

A colossal thank you is in order to our members for their part in this wonderful undertaking. To get an idea of some of the details, here are some statistics:

Headphones for classroom computers - 9

Flash Drives - 48

Glue Sticks - 300

Ziplock Bags - 38 boxes

Tissues - 53 boxes

Monetary contributions were received to purchase additional supplies and a \$100 contribution went to "Adopt a Classroom." There were too many items to count (pencils, pens, folders, binders, spiral notebooks, composition books, erasers, sharpeners, scissors, rulers, pencil boxes, markers, crayons, colored pencils, and backpacks).

And there is another figure worth noting - we now have over 20 members engaged in volunteering at Brentwood School, who are making a significant difference in the lives of the BES students through our Invest in Children program.

So to one and all, an enormous thank you!



# 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CATHRYN HERRON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



## SPONSOR A HOLE

\$ 100.00

*Tax Deductible*



## PLAY GOLF

Saturday - October 7

8:30 a.m. Shotgun \$ 50.00



## MAKE A DONATION

*Your participation and support will help FPC add to the Cathryn Herron Scholarship Fund. This fund was designed to provide educational scholarships for students, with financial need, pursuing a college degree in education or the ministry.*

## DONATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## HOLE SPONSOR INFORMATION

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## FOURSOME INFORMATION

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www.rollinggreengc.com

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- 2) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to FPC and turn in to the church office 2050 Oak Street Sarasota, FL 34237  
If you have questions please call: Jim Dean 941-915-7672

## • ***Academy of Christian Discipleship***

### **Fall Session 1**

#### **Ending Poverty:**

**September 3 - October 15**

#### **Cold Brew + Conversations:**

**September 10 - October 15**

**(no classes on October 1)**

### ***Ending Poverty***

This course beginning Sunday, September 3, is led by Dr. Hendrick “Hal” Serrie. It focuses on the invention of poverty, one of the scourges of humankind. We will examine how it developed in the Neolithic Period and morphed into permanent class and caste systems in all ancient and modern civilizations. We will discuss how poverty threatens the survival of *homo sapiens* in the present. And we will explore some of the current attempts at ending poverty and creating a better future for every human being worldwide.

### ***Cold Brew + Conversations***

This adult education course, beginning Sunday, September 10, is led by Kelly Fitzgerald and Mike Frandsen. It imaginatively explores central topics of Christianity. Grab a cup of coffee and sit at the feet of some of the 21st century’s most fascinating scholars and practitioners of the Christian faith through *Animate: Faith Curriculum*. In each session, the group will watch a video featuring a leading voice from the Christian faith, spend time on personal reflection and journaling, and share ideas with the group. In the first session you will meet Brian McLaren. Brian is one of the unofficial founders of what has become the Emerging Church. The first class on September 10 will address the question, “How are you embarked on a journey of seeking God and keeping the quest alive?” In the following weeks we will hear from other leaders such as Nadia Bolz-Webber, Bruce Reyes-Chow and Lauren Winner. All ages are welcome – from high school and beyond!

### **Fall Session 2**

**Sundays October 29 - December 3**

### ***A Great Cloud Of Witnesses***

Since we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, we will study our ancestors in the faith: Paul, Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin and John Knox, Karl Barth and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and women witnesses. This course is led by Dr. Maurice Luker.

### ***Marriage Enrichment***

Marriage is beautiful and complex; it is fluid and changes with time. This class is not a marriage counseling group, but one that assists couples in developing skills needed to enhance their marital relationship. This class will offer tools and insights to enrich marriage and relationships by improving skills in communication, conflict resolution, handling painful triggers, understanding and working with different temperaments, and much more. The class will review how the teachings work out each week in a supportive, prayerful and caring environment. Couples of all ages and stages are welcome. This course is led by Dr. Victor Ford.

## • ***Wednesday Bible Study*** ***Galatians***

Join us at noon on Wednesdays starting **September 6**, as we gather in room 203 to reflect on the wisdom of God’s Word. Glen Bell, Kelly Fitzgerald and other guest teachers will guide our time together. We begin our Bible study with Galatians 3:1-14. All are welcome!

• **Branching Out - Day Camp at FPC**



## • **Let's Pack the Sanctuary**

SURE begins the 2017/2018 Timeline for Justice with its Community Problems Assembly at our church on **Monday, October 16, at 6:00 p.m.**

Last October 19, at the Community Problems Assembly, when we renewed FPC's Covenant with SURE, many of us First Presbyterian Church attendees were not precisely aware of our commitment. Some six months later when our FPC members gathered together at the April 3 Nehemiah Assembly, we knew. In a crowd of over 900 faith-based believers, First Presbyterian members and friends had recorded the second highest group in attendance. This is why we were there:

- We believe in the justice ministry network of SURE.
- Our prayers matter.
- We heard pulpit support from Glen Bell.
- We joined the affordable housing and civil citation research teams. Traveled to Tallahassee.
- We attended meetings related to SURE.
- We became dues-paying network members.
- We were faithful readers of *Cross Connections* for latest updates.

The Community Problems Assembly is the first meeting of the calendar year that sets the agenda for SURE's justice ministry:

- 1) Sarasota-wide SURE covenant member attendance at this particular meeting and each SURE event thereafter is vital.
- 2) Faith-based attendees vote to create the number one problem area for research.
- 3) The more FPC attendees, the greater our input when we are called forward to tally First Presbyterian's vote among the others.
- 4) We make commitments to attend the February 26 Rally, March 29 Nehemiah Action Assembly, and the April 30 Celebration.

- 5) We are present to hear biblical reflection and to learn of committee updates.

Let each of us in our personal prayer ministry pray for SURE and its continued and needed presence in our community. On Monday, October 16, let us welcome SURE members from across our city and county with joy and anticipation as we meet to create the coming year's SURE ministry agenda.

*How good and how pleasant it is when God's people dwell together in unity.*  
- Psalm 133.1



• **Birthdays**

1	Leif Jacobsen, Sr	17	Sarah Pullman	27	Shane Mathis
	Anna Marshall		Ali Tarnowsky	28	Avery Kyser
2	Jean Kennedy		Patty McGuire		Jan Matthews
	Pat Higgins	18	Patrick Hallinan		Jerry Blanton
	Allison Tracy		Jeanne Noe	29	Kim Whitford
	Jo Watson		Dana Bauer		Sue Cole
	Charlie Weitekamp		John McLeod		Allan Varner
	Jim Murphy		Bob Barr		Ron Miller
	John Garcia		Russ Terry		John Parks
3	Nancy Tatum	19	Judy Hord		Christine Harrington
	Doug Anderson		Phil Khuu	30	Jean Fulton
4	Tony Williams	20	Lois Bowen		Daniel Clissold
5	Martie Smith		Aiden Houglan		Caroline Clissold
	Sue Simpson		Jackie Wright		Emily O'Neill
6	Bill Bosold		Xander Jiva		Keeley Alsum
	Miles John	21	Ted Eastmoore		Madeline Alsum
7	Margie Young		Ronald Saba		
	Hans Ooms	22	Cindy Hallinan		
8	Nancy Lindsley		Tony Morris		
	Stephanie Edwards		Phyllis DuBois		
9	Karen Turner		Kevin Stearns		
	Mary Willis		Karen Olson		
11	Carl Stover	23	Susan Gillespie		
12	Pat Davidson		Meaghan Schatzman		
	Kate Schwab		Doug Tarnowsky		
	Cameron Whitford		Jim Brown		
	George Buermann	24	Ansley Morris		
	Mary Harris		Mary Jo Steltmann		
	Jean Kirkpatrick		Helen Corcoran		
13	Kate DeLuca	25	Tom Singleton, III		
14	Meredith Sims		Ric Saba		
15	Liliana Vargas	27	Ken Papa		
	Jack Simpson		Julie Klick		
16	Grace Hutchens		Brian Bowen		
	Kelly Fitzgerald		Nan LeVan		

• **Anniversaries**

3	Hal & Gretchen Serrie
	Rich & Jenn McGuire
14	Scott & Clare Carter
15	Guillermo & Margarita Contreras
17	Wes & Billie Burquest, Jr
18	Steve & Beth Knopik
23	Mark & Tonya Johnson
24	Richard & Robin John
	Timothy & Jennifer Hall
25	Branford & Yajaira Adumuah
26	Ric & Lisa Saba
	Rob & Linda Harrison



**Cross Connections** is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Florida, Volume 35 Issue #8. Please submit articles for the next issue by September 15, 2017.



## **Cross Connections**

First Presbyterian Church  
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(941) 955-8119

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

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MINISTRY

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through people.

**SOMETIMES  
LIFE CAN BE A  
STRUGGLE**

***Loneliness...Loss...Divorce...Illness***

***Spiritual Emptiness...Depression***

***STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE HERE TO HELP***

If you would like a Stephen Minister to call on you, please contact the church office (941-955-8119) to speak with Pastor Glen Bell (x108) or Stephen Ministry Leader Steven Phillips (x124). Visit our link on the church website: <http://www.firstpressarasota.org/stephenministry.html>.