

2023 / JUNE / JULY

THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN NORTH PALM BEACH



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Missions In Our Backyard: Kairos

By Colin Wright

A couple of weeks ago I was chairing a meeting of the Kairos Florida Advisory Councils in Orlando. One of my colleagues said during a discussion time, “prisons are the United States’ greatest mission field, and many are right there in your backyard.” That statement was very thought provoking. So often we think of the mission field as somewhere else, a place where we have to travel overseas, but here we are with a huge mission field right where we live. Are we, as Christians, thinking of the lost who are right here in our backyard – in the prison down the street or in the county next to us? Or of the women and families sitting here in our pews who are directly impacted by incarceration?

The fact is that 1 out of every 100 people in the United States is or has been directly impacted by someone incarcerated in a jail or prison. I have been amazed at the number of First Pres people who have shared with me about incarcerated family and friends, when I have had the opportunity to speak about Kairos at the Church.

First Pres North Palm Beach has been a great supporter of Kairos locally for many years. There are a dozen or so men who volunteer their time at the prisons (Martin Correctional, South Bay Correctional and Okeechobee Correctional) and several of our pastors have also served on Kairos teams.

Local Missions funding has been used to enhance the chapel and community rooms at Martin Correctional Institution and that funding has seeded donations from other churches and organizations.

The chapel and the community rooms in the prison are a peaceful haven, away from the bleak and inhospitable dorms and prison yard. The building also has air conditioning which the dorms do not! First Pres funding covered the cost of new round tables and functional seating a year or so ago. Things that are not

a high priority on the State DOC budget.

Kairos in Palm Beach County is vibrant. A new Kairos Torch program has opened at West Palm Beach Youth Academy to bring the love of Christ to our most vulnerable, young men, most from broken families, incarcerated and starting a life as career criminals. This group has the highest recidivism rate of any.

The Kairos Outside Program, which is designed to bring the healing love of Jesus to the wives and mothers of men who are incarcerated, is growing in strength in our area and Palm Beach County has one of only two weekend programs totally in Spanish in the country.

We provide the Kairos Inside program in Spanish in Moore Haven CI and that group has its home base at our sister church, the Presbyterian Church in the Gardens. Plans are in progress to open Spanish speaking weekend programs in South Bay CI and in Martin CI. Unfortunately, the Spanish population in our prisons is growing rapidly and that trend is likely to continue and many of these men speak no English at all.

On Thursday, August 10, another team of men will start a 10-week training session at First Pres. The training takes place on consecutive Thursday evenings from 6.00pm until 9.00pm and dinner is served at 6.00pm. It’s a fun time of networking, team building, and learning the Kairos program. This event is for men only but there are other volunteering opportunities for women and for couples in Kairos Outside and Kairos Torch. For further information please call or email me.

Colin Wright | colin.wright@bvhg.com | 561.301.3300



St. George

St. George Table is one of the ministries First Pres supports. Faithful members of our church prepare 200 sandwiches weekly on Tuesdays that St. George distributes to the needy they serve in the Riviera Beach area. We also have allowed them to prepare food in our kitchen three mornings a week while they are updating their facilities. St. George Table was filmed for The Razor's Edge Documentary on PBS. Here is the information on this documentary as written in St. George's newsletter:



Director/
Producer
Keith Famie
of Visionalist
Entertainment
Productions,
Detroit,
Michigan,
was in town
several days
in late March
to early April
filming a PBS

documentary on poverty, hunger and homelessness in America. The filming schedule for The Razor's Edge now in production included The Lord's Place, CROS Ministries and the feeding program at St. George Table. The Reverend Jim Cook, Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church & School and board member of St. George Table, spearheaded a special serving of St. Mark's signature meatloaf meal on Saturday, April 1st to showcase the work of St. George Table in the community.

Famie and his production crew started out at **First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach** where meatloaves prepared by St. Mark's parishioners were heated and side dishes were prepared under the direction of St. George Table Cook, Smieley Swails. The crew transitioned over to Victory City Church to film plating and serving the meal while hungry and homeless guests told their stories of misfortune and the blessing of St. George Table.

Unfortunately, hunger and homelessness are not unique to Palm Beach County, so Famie's stop here was just one leg of the journey in filming the documentary story set to air on PBS sometime in 2024. We'll be sure to let you know when to stay tuned...

Youth For Christ

On May 13th at Ocean Cay Park in Jupiter, Youth



For Christ held their annual BBQ Picnic for all of their volunteers, church planters and local prayer warriors to celebrate what God has done and the impact that has been made. Two members of the Local Missions Committee, Barbara Ryder and Gayle Coughanour, attended this event, along with about 120 other people. David Killian, Executive Director of Youth for Christ is pictured here as he tells the group about the impact their ministry is having on reaching unchurched youth who are regularly committing their lives to Christ.

Opportunities To Serve This Summer

Hannah's Home in Tequesta June 24th from 9 am - noon

Projects to be completed are: 1) clean out the attic; 2) move items from old shed to new shed; 3) clean/disinfect child care center and toys; 4) assist landscaping (trim trees back and pull weeds) and 5) set up sunshades in back yard. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Mary Arden Carroll at 706-767-9416.

Real Life Children's Ranch in Okeechobee July 22nd

They are requesting that we repair a covering that cattle use for shade. See the pics below. The last hurricane tore a portion of the roof off and damaged one of the support beams. It is a simple roof with metal sheets nailed to wood. The head of Real Life, Mark, says he thinks if there were one person in the group that had building and construction knowledge, the other volunteers could work to support what he needed done. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Josh Bartz at 561-427-8279.



GLOBAL MISSIONS

Global Mission Partner Report From Mexico

By Nancy Ackles

Our mission partners in Merida, Mexico, are Jose Antonio and Ruth Reyes. Some of you may have heard Antonio speak when they visited here for our church planters conference in the BC era (Before Covid!). Antonio has many leadership responsibilities. He pastors a well-established congregation in Merida, (Verbo de Dios), is the president (moderator) of their synod of five presbyteries, has just been elected president of his presbytery, and is responsible for four new congregations being planted by Verbo de Dios. As you can imagine, he and Ruth greatly appreciate prayer for themselves, their families, and the Presbyterian parishioners in the Yucatan.

CHURCH PLANT NEWS: While there may be many people who attend and participate, a church in Mexico does not become independent until sixty people have committed themselves to official membership. One of the new church plants had almost reached sixty before Covid hit. They lost members but have come back and are eagerly working and growing again. The second plant is stable, both in membership and finance, but perhaps a little content without growth. The two smallest churches are strategically placed in traditional villages on the north side of Merida, an area that is rapidly growing with many new housing developments. The young couple who has been providing pastoral leadership may soon be moving to an established church, and Antonio asks prayer for someone who is energetic and adventurous to come help. Church planting is not easy work.

CHURCH NEWS: Verbo de Dios will celebrate its centennial next year. Some happy news is that although the Sunday evening service is smaller than the morning service, since Covid it has been drawing

people who had never come to the church before. The property the church is on was originally a mission established to care for children, and the facilities need attention. The Session is beginning fund raising to meet this need, hoping to celebrate their centennial in a repaired facility.

FAMILY NEWS: Everyone is healthy. Son Jonathan is ready to start high school and has been admitted to the Presbyterian Pan American School in Texas, a wonderful opportunity. Even though he will receive good scholarship help, the remaining costs are a challenge for Antonio and Ruth. Ruth has taken on two part-time jobs and hopes to be able to accompany Jonathan for his first week of orientation at the school.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for leadership help for the two small churches, for the needs at Verbo de Dios, for Antonio's many leadership responsibilities, and for Antonio and Ruth as they parent their three children and work hard to support Jonathan in this opportunity for an exceptional education.

TRIP OPPORTUNITY: In January 2024, the mission committee plans that a small group from First Pres will visit Merida. Antonio says, "Come anytime! Just give us a couple of days' notice so we can start preparing the cochinita." That's a delicious kind of slow roast pork traditional in the Yucatan.



What Is God Doing In Athens?

By Rev. Dr. Ron Hilliard

Ten years ago, First Pres began a partnership with Alex Pipilios, a Church planter in Athens, Greece. Alex was called to start a church in the Exarcheia neighborhood of Athens. What is unique about this neighborhood is that it is the anarchist capital of Greece! It is the home of intellectuals, students, artists, and immigrants. Graffiti and murals adorn the sides of buildings, and it wouldn't be unusual to come across a protest taking place in the town square or in the streets. Exarcheia is also the home of small cafes and foody restaurants that provide gathering places along the streets. It has a cool vibe, and is different from other neighborhoods in Athens.

Alex and his wife, Iliana, moved into this neighborhood to start the church. Alex fills his days meeting with people in the neighborhood, mentoring young leaders in the church, and having conversations with those who are exploring the Christian faith. As missionaries to the neighborhood, they focus on reaching people who do not know about Jesus. In order to do this, Alex, Iliana, and people from the church go where the people are. They have been living life with the people of Exarcheia now for over ten years. Recently, Iliana opened a small business in Exarcheia that provides baby clothes and accessories for families. People stop by the shop, which allows Iliana to get to know her neighbors. The church has grown slowly over those years. Elders have been elected to help guide the church. Three other churches have been started by the leadership of the Exarcheia church. One is an intercultural church that intentionally focuses on diversity. Another reaches out to young urbanites who live in the business district. Alex mentors and develops younger leaders, who then help start these churches.

But starting new churches is only part of what this church in Exarcheia does. With the help of First Pres, the church renovated an empty space in their basement and now hosts three Ukrainian families. The Exarcheia church, and Alex, helped start an NGO, called Faros, that assists refugees in Athens. They specifically work with unaccompanied minors who are in Athens.

Jared and I recently visited Athens to spend time with Alex, the church in Exarcheia, and the network of other churches who are connected across the city of Athens. We visited these churches and got to know their pastors and leaders. Each of these churches, located in a different neighborhood of Athens, is helping to care for their neighbors, some of whom are immigrants, refugees, children, students, and families. The Exarcheia church, and each one of the churches we visited, makes their neighborhood a better place, which then makes Athens a better city. And in each location, lives are being changed and the Kingdom of God is present in the lives of those who follow Jesus. Three of our college interns are currently in Athens for the month of May, serving alongside Alex in Exarcheia and helping with the work taking place.



Thank you to all who give to FPC's global mission fund. You are a part of what is happening in Exarcheia and helping to make a difference in Athens and throughout our world!

ADULT MINISTRIES (60+)

Greetings from JoAnn Hayes

Coordinator of Senior Adult Ministries

Can you believe it's almost summer? It **feels** like summer with the hot humid days already here. While others around the country see the summer as a time to get out and enjoy the weather, we here in Florida hunker down in the air conditioning. Many of our friends are up north for the summer and other friends are traveling to see friends and family.

Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself. **Who is our neighbor?** Neighbors are people who live close to us and close to our hearts.

I live in a neighborhood with 17 homes and lots and lots of beautiful trees. Two weeks ago, when a tornado went through our area, I found out again how wonderful my neighbors really are. We had damage to the first house on the street and a large wooden fence that runs along the property line came down like dominoes. No trees were uprooted but they left a mess. Many of us couldn't get to our homes because of huge branches that fell on the road. It wasn't long before my neighbors were out to check on everyone and to help clean up the road so cars could get in.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY: The 4th Friday of each



month our Adult Ministry group meets for dinner and a program at church in the Fellowship Hall. In May our speaker was Supervisor of Elections for Palm Beach County – Wendy Sartory Link. She graciously shared her time and gave lots of information about what's going on at the Elections office. So sorry if you missed it.

One thing that is VERY IMPORTANT that she shared: **Voters wishing to vote by mail in the 2023-2024 elections are required to make a new Vote-by-Mail Request for all elections.**

Also, when you register to vote or update your voter registration record (change to your address, name or political party), they will mail you a new or updated Voter Information Card.

You can do this online at **RegistertoVoteFlorida.gov** You will need your Florida driver license or FL ID card, and the last four digits of your Social Security Number to submit your application online.



LUNCHEON CRUISE ON THE INDIAN RIVER:

Each year our group likes to go somewhere on water. This year 17 of us spent a wonderful day having lunch together and cruising on the Indian River. The cruise departed from Stuart, taking us along the Indian River and Jupiter Island on a guided tour. We passed by the homes of renowned personalities such as Tiger Woods, Greg Norman, and the late Burt Reynolds and Perry Como. We heard fascinating stories about Jupiter Island and its residents. While on this trip, we encountered exotic birds, fish and sea life. The historic Jupiter Inlet lighthouse was a sight to see.



rangers from MacArthur Park. FYI: There will be no July & August Dinner. See you in September.

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH THE 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH meets all Summer long:

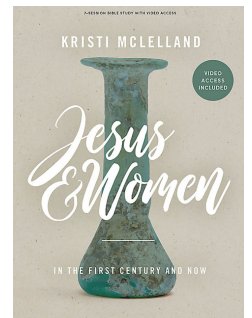
- June: Hurricane Cafe
- July: Brios
- August: Carmines

JUNE DINNER ON FRIDAY, JUNE 23RD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL: Our speaker will be one of the



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

Thursday morning Women's Bible Study that meets at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall will meet again in September. We will be studying the book "Jesus & Women" written by Krisi McLelland. All women are welcomed.



Women's Morning Circle

Honoring Jane Sanders

For 40 years the Women's Circle of First Pres has found life and direction under the faithful, God-sent leadership of Jane Sanders. In the sweetness of spring, on May 16th, Jane was celebrated by the Women's Circle membership for her steadfast and remarkable shepherding ~ All in significant light of the 60th Anniversary of our church to be officially celebrated in November. In our hearts, minds, and souls, we recognize there could never be another Jane Sanders! Her presence and legacy stand stable and firm. Our deep gratitude and love overflow for the

marvel and miracle of Jane! As was said, "She is the superglue that holds us all together."

Women's Circle meets monthly from September through May on the third Tuesday morning of each month. All ladies are invited to attend. We hope to see YOU in September.



STUDENT MINISTRIES

Good Friday Retreat - 4/7

On Good Friday, our Communicants class met together for the day for our annual retreat. We reflected on the significance of this holiday and all that Christ has done for us, in addition to reviewing all that we learned this past year. Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to share memories, read the Easter story, and reflect on what the Lord has done in their lives. Concluding our retreat, we held a communion service for the students and their families. We are thankful for all the ways the Lord provides our students to grow together in their walk with the Lord.

Eggstra Special Fundraiser - 4/8

On April 8th, our youth leaders and students delivered over 3,000 eggs to over 60 houses for our Eggstra Special Fundraiser. It was a night filled with fun, excitement, and many hoppy bunnies. Thank you to everyone who purchased eggs and donated to our fundraiser! Your support helped many students and leaders raise needed camp funding.



Youth Pastor Summit - 4/16-18

A few of our Youth Ministry leaders had the fantastic opportunity to go to a leaders retreat called Youth Pastor Summit in Orlando, Florida! Over the weekend, we heard from various speakers, had an amazing time of worship, and met many other youth leaders. We are so grateful for the experience and the information we gained during our weekend!



Advance Lock-In - 4/21-22

We hosted over twenty 8th and 9th-grade students for our Advance Lock-In on April 21-22. Throughout our Lock-In, our students participated in a celebration dinner, ice skating, sunrise worship, and a serving opportunity with Real Life Children's Ranch. They also heard messages about navigating their future as they go into their next stage of life. We are so grateful God provided this community of students and we cannot wait to see what He does in their lives as they journey into high school.





Communicants Join The Church- 4/30

On April 30th, we had ten students in our Communicants class become covenant partners of First Pres! We are so proud of how these students have grown throughout the year and are excited to see what God does in their lives. We ask everyone to please pray over these new members as they continue in their walk with Christ.



End Of Year Celebration - 5/3

Sadly, our last Crew and Team meeting of the school year was on Wednesday, May 3rd. We ended the semester with a celebration consisting of yard games, great worship and message, along with a finale of

pizza and cake. We said goodbye to our leaders Ryan Fink and Joanna Zein-Eldin, but we are so excited and praying for what comes next for them. We look forward to seeing all our students back for our Summer Kickoff on June 14th!



Camp Parent Meeting - 5/10

As you may know, on June 3rd we are taking more than 80 students to Shocco Springs in Talladega, Alabama, for Student Life Camp! On May 10th we had the pleasure of hosting the parents of participating students for our 2023 Camp Parent Meeting. It was a great night of conversation and sharing helpful information. Please be praying over these families, students, and leaders who will be on our trip. We are so excited for an incredible week!



UPCOMING STUDENT EVENTS

6th Grade Welcome - 5/31
Student Life Camp - 6/3-6/9
Crew and Team Summer Kickoff - 6/14
Fun Depot Thriller Thursday - 6/15
Rapids Thriller Thursday - 6/22
Vision Quest College Trip - 6/26-6/30
Trampoline Park Thriller Thursday - 7/27

Graduate Recognition

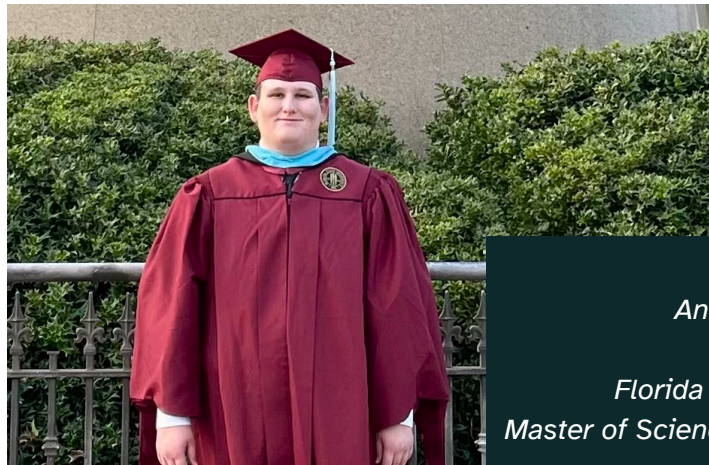
The Student Ministries team would like to congratulate our high school and college graduates! We are praying that wherever the next steps in your journey take you in further education and career choices, that you would keep seeking Jesus and keep in touch with your First Pres family.



Alex Aken
--●--
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Master of Divinity



Abby Del Russo
--●--
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Master of Divinity



Andrew Wikse
--●--
Florida State University
Master of Science in Sport Management



UNDERGRAD



Luke Bartolf



Palm Beach Atlantic University



Aubrey Christie



Florida State University



Ainsley Dalton



University of Central Florida



Jessica Dennis



Palm Beach Atlantic University



Ricky Heers



Palm Beach Atlantic University



Annie Hernandez



Palm Beach Atlantic University



Sophia Robins



Palm Beach Atlantic University



Nicholas Warne



Florida International University



Joanna Zein-Eldin



Palm Beach Atlantic University



HIGH SCHOOL



Abby Bennett

---●---
Palm Beach Gardens HS



Ruby Freeman

---●---
The King's Academy



Mita Gooley

---●---
Jupiter Christian School



Jermaine Hunter

---●---
Jupiter Christian School



Jocelyn Johnson

---●---
Palm Beach Gardens HS



Abigail Maken

---●---
Palm Beach Central HS



Owen Nutter

---●---
Benjamin School



Brandon Spohn

---●---
The King's Academy



Alexander Trout

---●---
Dwyer High School

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

KINGDOM CONNECTION



K'MOTION



Leslie and I had a wonderful year getting to know our students and their families in K'Motion. They are a lovely group of children, full of love and laughter.

This year we tried to make our way through the Bible from beginning to end. Although we did not make it all the way through, our K'Motion students have a better understanding of God's plan for creation and God's love for His people.

To our first grade students and families being promoted to Kingdom Connection, we will miss you.

Make sure to stop by and say hello!

Wishing all of our students and families a wonderful summer. We can't wait to see everyone in the fall when clubs resume.

Blessings to all,

Mrs. Leslie and Mrs. Nicole



CLUB



Dear Fifth Grade Graduates,

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."
Proverbs 3:5-6.*

This is the verse that was chosen for Club 45 and the 5th grade Sunday School class to help remind you about God's direction in your lives.

In Club 45 and in our Sunday School lesson times, we talked about what it looks like to grow in your faith. God loves you and He has a wonderful plan for your life. We want you to know that you can always lean on Him.

These past few years have been a challenging time, but you will look back, and this “season” will be one you remember for the rest of your life. Always know that God is in CHARGE – even when we don’t quite understand. He has you in His hand and only wants the best for you. Fabulous things await the incredible person we know you will become.

But now it is time for you to move on to new adventures. Ms. Kim and Middle School Crew are ready for your arrival. As you go, take these few thoughts with you:

- Never forget that we love and care about you very much and we are excited to see the dynamic person of faith you will grow to be.
- These are only your beginning days in your walk with the Lord.
- You cannot GROW in the Lord unless you GO to where you can learn about Him.

So, as you move into your bright future, hold on to the verse chosen for you, knowing that God will direct your paths.

Mr. Bob Johnson
 Mr. Rick Hallquist
 Mr. Rick Koepke
 Ms. Kath Doerr
 Ms. Cary Koepke



Picture of 5th grade graduates are: Kai Troisi, Gavin Grommes, Jace Jackson, Lila Sanders, RaeAnn Ayers, Madeline Baldwin, Wyatt Kant, Banyan Boggess, Merrill Furman, Van Knieriemen, Lily Giarusso.

THE ORCHARD



The Orchard, preschool Sunday School, had a tea party to celebrate our rising kindergartners.

EASTER EGG HUNT



What a beautiful day at this year’s Easter Eggstravaganza! The weather was perfect as families from our church and neighborhood came to have fun searching for eggs, petting animals, eating barbecue



or laughing with the Amazing Mr. A.

A special thank you to the 17 families that served this year with a welcoming smile, helping kids and families have fun and create beautiful memories at First Pres.

FIRST PRES PRESCHOOL



Once again there was NO disappointment with the spring musical presented by our preschoolers. The theme was "Sailing with our Savior." We are grateful for our amazing



music teacher, Kath Doerr, and her creative efforts she put in this year to make the evening special.

Each year our students have a fun-filled night having "Dessert with Daddy." It is a great event for dad's to hang out with their kiddos and fill up with "SUGAR!"

As we near the end of this school year, we want to give a special thank you to all the teachers who lovingly cared for each child. - Miss Carol Atwater, Miss Chae MacLea, Miss Debbie Bierman, Miss Camille Marro, Miss Laurianna Schilling and Miss Fatima Wilkes. We so appreciate you!!! Let's not forget our fearless leader, Diana Wise, who keeps us all on our toes and makes this preschool an amazing place for our little people. 25 years!

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS THIS SUMMER

Come and join a fun-filled night as a family with dinner and games!
6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall • \$15 per family

- June 28th - BINGO
- July 12th - TRIVIA
- July 26th - BINGO

FINANCIAL FOCUS

By Gayle Coughanour

God uses peoples' generosity in unexpected and wonderful ways. Two of my favorite illustrations from the Bible of this are written here. Consider the story of Ruth and Boaz. There was a famine in Judah, so some of the Israelites moved to Moab. Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, and their two sons were among those who moved to Moab. One of the sons married Ruth, a Moabite. After some time, Naomi's husband and two sons died. Naomi decided to go back to Judah, and Ruth decided to go with her because she believed that Naomi's God would provide. Upon arriving in Judah, they needed to find a relative to redeem (provide) for them and their family name. Boaz was a relative and through his generosity and kindness to Ruth, he married her. They conceived a child whom they named Obed. Obed was King David's grandfather, and Jesus, our Redeemer, came from the line of David. Through Boaz' generosity, he became part of the genealogical line of Jesus.

Another great story of generosity comes from the Shunammite woman, as recorded in 2 Kings. She was a wealthy Jewish woman who would keep track of travelers from Nazareth to Jerusalem. One of the people who would travel on the road outside her house was the prophet Elisha. One day she invited Elisha over for a meal. Then each time he passed by, she would feed him. The Shunammite woman suggested to her husband that they make an upper room and provide a bed and other furniture for him, so he could rest there. Elisha decided she was so generous that he wanted to do something nice in return. Elisha inquired through his servant Gehazi whether Elisha could use his influence with Israel's King on her behalf. She told Gehazi she didn't need anything. Gehazi returned to Elisha with her response. Elisha asked what they should do for her. Gehazi pointed out the obvious – the woman and her aging husband had no children to carry on the family name. So Elisha summoned the woman and promised her she would have a child next year at this time. Her generosity led to a baby boy. But the story doesn't end there. A few years later the boy got sick and died. She carried the boy to Elisha's room and laid the boy on his bed. She then went in search

of Elisha. Elisha arrived and stretched his body across the boy's and his lifeless body came back to life. God twice rewarded her generosity out of love for Him, as shown to His prophet Elisha.

We, as Christ followers, serve a generous God who generously and sacrificially gave us His only Son, Jesus, so we could learn to live like Him, but also sentenced Him to death to take away our sins, providing us eternal life. We should live our lives on mission, which means we don't focus on ourselves and our desires but on what God is doing in the world and how we can partner with His work. We can be outwardly focused when we are confident in God's provision, protection and faithfulness.

We can lead the way of living generous lives when we truly believe, as stated in Acts 20:35, that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Often, we have the heart to give but have excuses not to. We need to match our willingness with action. There are certain mindsets that can limit our generosity.

One mindset is thinking that all our resources (time, money/possessions and talents) are ours to use as we please. Actually, it all is God's resources that we are to faithfully steward. Psalm 24:1 states, "The earth is the Lord's and its fullness; the world and those who dwell therein." If we understand everything we have belongs to God, we will be more generous with it and use it to advance God's Kingdom on earth.

We think we do not have "enough" to be generous. "Not enough" is not an amount, it is a mindset. People can have millions of dollars and still feel they don't have enough. Generosity is not about how much we have. It's about trusting God with what we have. We serve an abundant God, who not only wants to give us everything we need, but enough to help others, too.

Another mindset we tell ourselves is that we will give when... when we get a raise or promotion; when we pay off our bills; when the children are out of the house, when we saved enough for retirement, etc. The road to generosity starts with giving a little and then increasing more as we see God's faithfulness and experience overflowing joy. It's never too early to begin or too late to start.

Generosity will bring peace, purpose, joy and a closeness with God like you have never experienced before. You, too, can have amazing stories of how God used your generosity.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Easter Blessing Bags

We are so grateful for all the members of our church family, but not everyone is able to join us in person for worship. To stay connected as fellowship, the Congregational Care Committee organized the delivery of Blessing Bags. **Barbara Hardcastle** and **Robin Miller** led the team that assembled **50 beautiful**



gift bags for delivery at Easter to those who are not able to worship with us. Over **30 volunteers participated** in delivering the bags. All who were involved were blessed, both recipients and deliverers.



Flowers Brighten Many Hearts

Our flower ministry is a great blessing to those who take and those who receive flowers. **Lois Koepke, Trena Wilkinson, Faith Beebe** and **Jeannie Mitchell** are the creative souls who transform the large arrangements from the Communion Table each week into smaller bouquets. We are very grateful to all who have brought in vases for the arrangements. For the time being **we don't need any more containers.**

We have recently added a **Flower Ministry Log** to the shelf in the kitchen refrigerator where the flowers are stored. If you would like to take a bouquet to someone, just **record the date and your name and the recipient's name** in the log. It is not necessary that the recipient be a First Pres member. Just let them know the flowers have come to them from First Pres and are a sign of God's love for them!

FAMILY NEWS

Baptisms

Mila Karmeris, whose parents are Andrew and Heather, was baptized on April 8th.

Jacqueline Baldwin, whose parents are Jack and Karen, was baptized on April 8th.

Blake Dinzik, whose parents are Drew and Lee, was baptized on April 16th.

Colton Atwater Heiman, whose parents are Stephen Heiman and AmyLeigh Atwater, was baptized on April 23th.



Deaths

Evelyn Clothier - March 25

Marian Nelson - May 9



New Covenant Partners

On April 30th, the following people joined First Pres after having successfully completed the New Member classes and examination by Session:

Alex & Fawn Bautista, Patricia Campbell, Stephen Haskin, Suzanne Moody, Nick & Terri Nickerson, Ed & Judy Reed, Cole & Ashley Rose, Dorothy (Dot) Smith, and Burk & Brenda Wyatt.

The following communicants also joined on April 30th: **Jacqueline Baldwin, Carolyn (CiCi) Cox, Genevieve (ViVi) Cox, David Grommes, Marcus Nakotey, Nadia Nakotey, Reese Rykse, Michael Sweeney, Hadley Terrana and Matthew Wallace.**

With these additions, we now have **955 covenant partners.**

Prayer Garden

In a prior edition of The Messenger we mentioned the origins of the Prayer Garden. We recently (and finally) purchased a plaque in memory of Ralph Mabie, who was our previous Church Administrator, Shirle Mabie's, husband. She donated the funds for the Prayer Garden. On May 18th Shirle arrived on campus to hang the plaque, along with Ralph's children.



2022 First Pres Women's 1st Friday Book Club

Join us from 9:30 - 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall as we discuss these books.

Patrick Taylor
An Irish Country Doctor

An Irish Country Doctor
by Patrick Taylor
September 8

The Mountains Sing
by Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai
October 6



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

NORTH PALM BEACH

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*Come and join a fun-filled night as
a family with dinner and games!*

June 28 - Bingo

July 12 - Trivia

July 26 - Bingo

6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
\$15 per family