

2023 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN NORTH PALM BEACH



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Make Generosity A Habit

By Gayle Coughanour

When we think of the word “generosity,” usually what comes to mind is giving of our financial resources. Actually, there are a multitude of ways to show generosity.

Consider the story of Rebekah, who is introduced to us in Genesis 24. As was customary in those days, the young ladies in a family would be the ones who would walk to the well to draw water for her family’s daily needs. In Bible times a person had to descend a long set of winding steps with the pitcher on their shoulder to obtain the water. On one particular evening, Rebekah went down to the well, filled the pitcher and came back up. A stranger was there along with an entourage of 10 camels and other men who rode the camels. He approached Rebekah and asked her for a drink. She gave him some water and said

she would draw water for the camels as well. This was a generous act of kindness. Although there was no monetary cost for the water, Rebekah was hard working and generous with her time. 10 camels drink a lot of water!

This simple act of generosity altered the course of her life. The stranger was actually Abraham’s servant who was sent to find a wife for Abraham’s son, Isaac, who was now 40 years old and unmarried. Abraham sent his servant to Nahor, which was 500 miles away from Canaan where Abraham had settled because he wanted Isaac to have a wife from his own people. The servant asked Abraham how he would know if he was bringing the right girl home, to which he responded that if he sees a girl at the well who offers to give water to his camels, she would be the one.

He was then to go to the girl's home and ask her to accompany him back to Canaan to be Isaac's wife. Rebekah agreed to marry a man twice her age whom she had never met, leaving her family and everything she knew behind because she understood from hearing the servant praising God that this was God's will for her life. In marrying Isaac, like her mother-in-law, Sarah, she would become a matriarch of God's people and be part of the genealogy of Jesus.

We all can be generous, regardless of our financial situation. In the months leading up to Jesus' public ministry, rumors spread about the coming Savior of the world. Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, went into all the region around the Jordan preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins and telling people to prepare the way for the Lord. Many wanted to know how they could get ready for the Savior's arrival. John answered, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." (Luke 3:11) John removed money from the generosity equation by saying anyone can be a generous person because everyone has something to share. Generosity is a mindset that influences how we relate to what we possess (our time, talents and treasures). Giving of ourselves is one of the best ways to live like Jesus.

Author Matthew Kelly wrote a book called "The Generosity Habit," subtitled "How daily giving can change your life and transform the world." He states, "The generosity habit is simple. Give something away every day. It doesn't need to be money or material things. The philosophy behind the generosity habit rests in this singular truth – you don't need money or material possessions to lead a life of staggering generosity." Kelly goes on to say, "Generosity is much more than random acts of kindness. It's anything but random – it is a focused and intentional effort to chart a new course for humanity and the planet we live on. Become more generous with each passing day. Set out to do the most good for the most people."

A great example of generosity at First Pres is the Bereavement Committee. Under the leadership of Jo Tanner, Nancy Keeler and Sharon Hayward, every time a member passes away, they plan beautiful receptions to encourage the grieving family. They, with the help of many other ladies in the church, utilize their time and resources to provide delicious food and scrumptious desserts, and serve and comfort the family during this difficult time.

Generosity not only increases our happiness and contentment, but it is contagious, setting off a domino effect. When one person acts generously, it inspires both recipients and observers of that generosity to be generous towards others later. We can help make this world a better place.

What does generosity look like? In addition to the obvious of giving financially to God through His church, where with each passing year you increase the amount given to meet the financial needs of others, consider giving of your time and talents, like Rebekah in the Bible story. Does a neighbor or friend need help with something, such as running an errand for them, raking their leaves, babysitting their child or pet, or just spending time with them because they are lonely? How about donating blood, knowing that each time you give, you are saving three lives. (I learned this the last time I gave blood.) Surprise someone by baking something for them or giving them something that you own that they previously admired. Share your skills – teach others what you know. Volunteer your time – at a homeless shelter, prison ministry, visiting shut-ins, serving at church – the possibilities are endless. Send handwritten letters or notes of encouragement to people. Be a person of hope and encouragement – complimenting people, thanking people who serve you (cashiers, wait staff, etc.), and calling your loved ones regularly. Be a gracious driver. Smile often, especially to strangers. These are just a few examples of what generosity looks like. What do you have to share? I encourage all of us to take on the generosity habit.

Fiscal Year End

July 31st is the end of another year for First Pres, financially speaking. It takes about a week or more after July 31st to determine how we actually finished the year, as we need to record every invoice and credit card charge made in July, input every check postmarked by July 31st, and calculate payroll accruals and depreciation. Although we don't have final numbers, we are on a trajectory to complete the year with the revenue exceeding the expenses and in a strong financial position. We truly appreciate each of you that gives financially to First Pres. As soon as the books close, Laura Putman, our financial secretary, and I work diligently to prepare all the documents for the annual audit which takes place in September. The audited report comes out in mid-November and is available upon request to any member who wants to see it.

NEWS

Streamlining Church Operations With Planning Center: Exciting Changes Ahead!

Our church is excited to announce that we are transitioning from Shelby Systems to Planning Center, a leading data management software specifically designed for churches. This change will centralize multiple functions under one umbrella as we aim to create better communication, efficiency, and congregation engagement.

Upgraded Directory: Stay Connected

One common request we've received is for an updated directory, and we are thrilled to announce that this feature will be available soon, providing a comprehensive and easy-to-access directory for all our church members. Stay tuned for further details about the directory roll-out, scheduled to begin this fall.

Introducing the Church Center App: All Things First Pres At Your Fingertips

To keep our congregation up-to-date with everything related to First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach, we encourage you to download the Church Center App from the App Store (available for free for Android or iOS). Once installed, search for "First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach" and link to our church using your cell phone number or email address. The Church Center App will be your go-to platform for watching sermons, connecting to events, accessing our new directory, making online donations, and more! For help on downloading the Church Center app, visit www.tinyurl.com/church-center. This will replace the First Presbyterian app that many of you are currently using once the transition is complete. We will let you know when that happens.

Transitioning Donation Processing: What You Need To Know

As part of the software change-over, our donation processing will also be switching to the new platform. Here are two essential points you need to be aware of:

1. Updating Automatic Payments: If you have set up automatic payments online and wish to continue using this convenient method, we kindly request that you set it up again at this time on our new platform via the Church Center App or by visiting <https://firstpresnpb.churchcenter.com/giving>. Once you do this, be sure to cancel your recurring gifts on the current First Pres/ShelbyGiving platform. All recurring gifts need to be moved to the new platform by September 15, 2023.

2. End-of-Year Giving Statements: For the year 2023, most donors will receive two end-of-year giving statements due to the transition between systems, depending on which system was being used at the time of your donation. However, rest assured that in 2024, we will return to issuing just one giving statement.

We understand that this transition period might raise questions or concerns. Please know that we are here to assist you every step of the way. If you need any help or have any inquiries, don't hesitate to reach out to us at give@firstpresnpb.org or the church office at (561) 622-8818.

As we prepare for the exciting changes ahead, we appreciate your support and cooperation during this transition and encourage everyone to embrace the Church Center App to stay connected with First Pres NPB. Together, let's grow in faith and continue building a strong and united community.



Scan the QR code to get started:



LOCAL MISSIONS



Hannah's Home in Tequesta provides a safe and loving Christian environment for single, pregnant, young women. They live on the property and through Christian counseling, life skills and continuing education, their lives are transformed. In the 12 years since they opened their doors, 81 babies have been born there. 82% of Hannah's Home resident mothers have been reunited with their family. In March, through their Annual Gala, they raised \$500,000 so they will begin shortly to build two more duplex cottages to house four more women and their babies. The need is great in South Florida. Hannah's Home has to turn away about 200 women on average per year due to lack of capacity. These new cottages will be a welcome addition.

A team from First Pres volunteered for a Saturday Serve Day at **Hannah's Home** in Tequesta on June 24th. They painted an office, cleaned /disinfected the childcare center and toys, and laid down fresh mulch in the play area. Mary Arden Carroll is the PR & Development Manager at Hannah's Home and a member of First Pres. She said the staff there was so relieved to have those tasks checked off their to-do lists and are so thankful for our financial support and volunteers who come to serve.

Through the Church's Local Mission budget, we provided for the funds for the Faculty/Staff Teacher Appreciation luncheon in April at **Lake Park**

Elementary School. We have had a long-standing relationship with this school where church members have volunteered in their reading program.

Beginning in 2009, First Pres began supporting a new ministry called Matthew 25 Ministries, located in Pahokee. (In Matthew chapter 25 of the Bible, we are commanded to visit those in prison and meet the needs of the poor and helpless among us.) Its name was changed after its founder, Rev. Dick Witherow, passed away but its mission remains the same. Now called **Restoration Destination**, it is a 24 acre, isolated private Christ-centered community where the physical and spiritual needs of the formerly incarcerated are met by reducing recidivism, helping the helpless, preventing homelessness, giving hope to the hopeless and restoring lives by pointing them to the transforming power of Jesus Christ. They primarily help convicted sex offenders reintegrate into society once they get out of prison. Those who are accepted receive Christian counseling, low-income housing and job placement. There is a church on-site and a fellowship hall for Wednesday night Bible study. The men become a close-knit community, full of people willing to help each other, such as caring for one of the residents that had Parkinson's and was taken care of by several of the men until he went home to Jesus or helping a man who developed the swift onset of dementia. Restoration Destination is restoring the lives of men and their families.

GLOBAL MISSIONS



A New Church In Guanabacoa, Cuba!

In mid-June, a group from First Pres visited the new church in Guanabacoa, Cuba. First Pres raised the money to help purchase a house that would be converted into the new church, La Comunidad Cristiana de la Villa (The Christian Community of the Village).

There were two groups of three people that split the time on this trip. Mike and Kat Kainec and Omar Avila, along with Ron Hilliard, traveled to Havana and spent four days with Pastor Ulises, his family, and the family making up this new church. As soon as we arrived in Havana, we went to the new church and took part in an ordination ceremony for Pastor Ulises and several new deacons. Rev. Hilliard preached at this service, encouraging the new church about the impact they are having in their city. The next day we walked

around the neighborhood of Guanabacoa, visiting an orphanage that the church is assisting in caring for 11 children. We got to spend time with people, hearing stories of how the church has impacted them. We also worshipped with this new church and participated in teaching children English after church.

The first group left mid-week and we picked up the second group of travelers from First Pres. Josh and Taylor Bartz and Sophia Robins arrived and were quickly introduced to this new church family. They, along with Ron, walked in the heart of the city, learning about its history and what makes Guanabacoa unique as a neighborhood of Havana. Every day we shared a lunch meal with our new friends, which was the highlight of our time there. Those preparing the meals are amazing cooks and we were treated with wonderful hospitality on our stay. This second group also got to visit the Hemingway

home and worship with the main church in Havana's Old City.

It was a wonderful privilege to be hosted by this new church family and to spend time getting to know our sisters and brothers who are following Jesus in

Cuba! They are so appreciative of the medicines, clothes and supplies that we were able to bring down to them. The pastor shared with us how important our visits are and how much they are encouraged when we come to see them. We are looking forward to our next visit in November 2023.



Building A Church Planting Network with Julio & Olga Chiang and the Lima Initiative

Julio and Olga Chiang are South America Mission missionaries who have spearheaded the Lima Initiative; a church planting network in the capital city of Peru. Several years ago, they participated, at First Presbyterian North Palm's urging, in the City to City Intensive training to prepare to create a new church planting movement in Lima and throughout South America. Phase I of the Lima Initiative launched in 2015 focused on the establishment of a gospel-centered church (City Church) in La Molina, an influential sector of Lima.

Now, as Phase II of the Lima Initiative begins, the Chiangs are stepping into a new church plant in the community of Mira Flores where a core group of 25 people began a new church in April of this year. The initial church plant in La Molina began back in 2016 and has grown even through the devastating time of COVID when the church was not allowed to meet in person. During 2022 the main goal was to get the church moving forward again after two years of isolation from the pandemic. Amazingly, at the end of 2022 attendance grew 50% more than before Covid. Now this mother church is planting the new daughter church in Mira Flores and 50% of the new church plant budget is being supported by the La Molina church. First Pres has the privilege of supporting the Lima Initiative network that allows for this new church

plant to flourish.

Julio also oversees the Lima Hub, an initiative to train church planters to establish new churches throughout South America. In 2022 eighteen pastors began the training and sixteen will complete the first year. They hope to see five new churches outside of Lima planted out of that group.

Julio and Olga are in the process of hiring Associate Pastors for each Lima church and are targeting 3 additional church plants over the coming years.

- Church plant #3 in Surco - 2026
- Church Plant #4 in San Borja - 2028
- Church Plant #5 in San Isidro - 2030

Lima is just one of several church planting networks that First Pres is supporting through the generous contributions of First Pres givers to the Global Mission Fund. These networks in Peru, Germany, Greece and Cuba are actively seeking to plant new churches to bring the Gospel of Christ to people who need to hear this good news. Pray for Julio, Olga and all of their team as they continue this important work.



Music Camp & Conservatory



The First Presbyterian Church Summer Music Camp and Conservatory was held from July 17 -21. We have held this camp at First Pres for almost 25 years now. It is a highly anticipated event in our community because of its excellent reputation of providing music instruction by many of the finest Music Educators in South Florida. Jay Arnn is the General Director and Kath Doerr is the Assistant Director.

This camp is attended by students who have completed 1st through 10th grades from First Pres and all our surrounding communities. The students were divided into three divisions. The Elementary Division was for students who completed 1st through 3rd grades. 40 children attended this division. They sang, learned Orff instruments, and artistic sign language (called Silent Praise.) The Intermediate Division was for students who completed 4th through

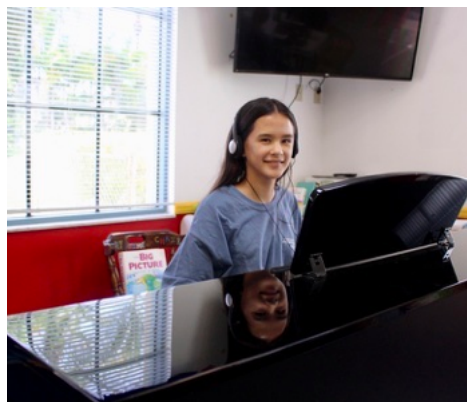




6th grade. 40 students were involved in this division. They sang and took an elective, including classes in strings and cadet band. The Summer Music Conservatory was for students who completed 7th through 10th grades. We had a record 97 students who attended the conservatory, for which they selected either choir, band or strings. The band had 5 tuba players!

It takes a lot of volunteers to run this week-long event. 47 people between the ages of 17 through

adult volunteered their time for the entire week. We really appreciate all of you that gave of your time and talents this week. In addition to the volunteers, we had an amazing faculty: Irena Antsiferova, String Assistant; Kristina Arnn, ORFF Director; Manuel Camacho, Band Director; Barbara Corcillo, Conservatory String Director; Piper Crisafi, Silent Praise; Galina Dennison, String Assistant; Carolyn Destito, Elementary Assistant; Erin Destito, Band Assistant; Paul Destito, Conservatory Band Director; Audrey Destito-Stutt, Band Assistant; Jerri Goffe,





Accompanist; Amanda Goldberg, Conservatory Choir Director; Nicholas Gulyamov, Section Leader – Saxophone; Andrew Jeffrey, String Director; Annette Johnson, Section Leader – Percussion; Ashley Leland, Conservatory Choir Director; Julie Murray, Conservatory Band Director; Sally Privett, Piano Teacher; Sonia Santiago, Elementary/Intermediate Choir Director; Molly Shippy, Elementary/Intermediate Assistant; Katie Thompsom, Elementary Assistant; Trina Watts-Horswood, Section Leader – Woodwinds;

Jessica Waymeyer, Accompanist; Andrew Winters, Band Assistant; and Laura Winters, Band Assistant.

The camp concluded with a final concert on Friday evening, July 21st where the students displayed their musical talents. The Church and community were invited to enjoy this excellent program. We are blessed to have such talented young musicians in our church and community.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Vacation Bible School

Once again Vacation Bible School delivered an amazing week of high energy and GALACTIC fun while making memories and lifelong friendships. All week long, students learned daily Bible Points that were

carefully integrated into each station's activities to reinforce that Jesus' Light Shines when life feels dark, when we don't get along, or when we feel happy or sad. Look and see what the different stations did to creatively relay God's message and how WE can Shine Jesus' Light.



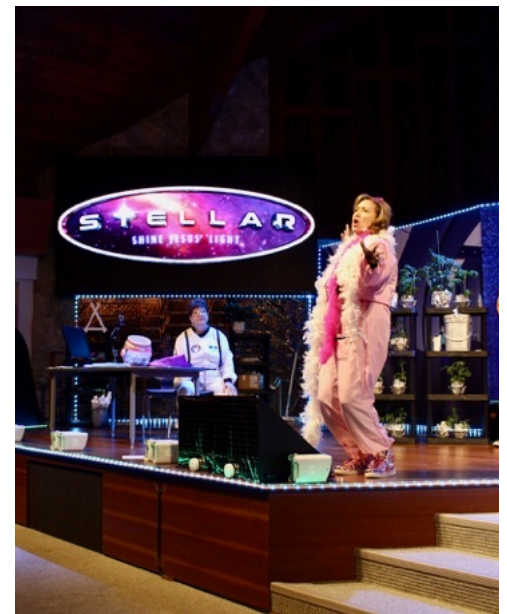
Science Lab Team

This year we added two new team members to explore space through science. Miss Emilie and Miss Holly are teachers for the home school group, Veritas. They had a wonderful experience and enjoyed teaching our campers and leader how God's universe is vast and, through exploration, we discover His greatness.



Entertainment

Lady Fluff and Kat Van Gogh entertained the campers and volunteers.



260
CAMPERS
136
VOLUNTEERS

Bible Exploration

Bible Exploration did not disappoint. All week campers learned about the different stories of how Jesus Shines His light on us through our different life experiences and how we can trust Him with all situations.



Chadder

KIDS LOVE CHADDER! As he made his way throughout the campus, kids roared and cheered for him. Children learned through daily videos about how children in different parts of the world experience how to Shine Jesus' Light!



Games

Our games were led by the amazing youth department!



Special NASA Guest

This year we were blessed to have a special guest from NASA, Teresa Kline, who spoke to us about how science and faith are compatible. She brought amazing photos of galaxies from the James Webb space telescope. Ms. Kline helped us understand that as technology advances so does our view of the universe. As we gain clarity, we can see God's eye view of creation. We've been trying to see and describe the large-scale shape and structure of the universe since the dawn of science. Those same technologies suggest that our view is still highly limited.



Startacular Surprises

We had some special surprises at Vacation Bible School this year! First, we had a special visitor at the closing program dinner. Alejandro Bautista brought his robot to dance and hang out with our families. The kiddos were very excited that he joined in the fun. If you're looking for a "robot" for a party, I highly recommend this one. (thekingseyephoto booth.com).

Rich's ice cream donated ice cream sandwiches for our volunteers. (richicecream.com)

We also want to recognize Julia Ferguson for her amazing Galactic Balloon display in Fellowship Hall for our Friday night festivities. You can follow Julia on Instagram: [@sunkissed_balloons](https://www.instagram.com/sunkissed_balloons)



Upcoming Children's Ministry Events





Sunday, August 13 @ 9:30: Back to School Bash

Wednesday, August 30 @ 6:00: All Clubs kick off night PIZZA, WATER GAMES AND SLIDES

Saturday, October 7 @ 3:00: Club (4th & 5th graders) trip to Fun Depot

Sunday, September 24 @ 9:30: Milestone - Communion class for 2nd grade students only; taught by Cary Koepke

Sunday, October 1 @ 9:30: Milestone - Communion class for students 2nd grade and older along with parents taught by Cary Koepke and Rev. Ron.

Sunday, October 1 @ 12:00 noon: Family Day in the courtyard BBQ.

Sunday, October 8 @ 9:30: Milestone Reading Scripture Class for students 3rd grade and older

Saturday, November 4 @ 2:00: Club (4th & 5th grade families) Road Rally

Sunday, December 3 @ 10:30: Christmas Pageant Auditions Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 9 @ 9:00 : Kingdom Connection (2nd & 3rd graders)— Snowy Day Trip bus

Wednesday, December 6 @ 6:00: All Clubs Christmas parties

Wednesday, December 14 @ 6:30: Pageant Rehearsal for speaking parts.

Wednesday, December 20 @ 5:30: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal sanctuary

Saturday, December 24 @ 5:00: Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 29 - January 2: Family Camping Trip Myakka River State Park

-Weekly Ministries -

PLAY AND PRAY MOM'S GROUP

Fridays from 9 am – noon. Come and hang out with other moms with your kids and have time of fellowship. Perfect for moms with young children or homeschool families.

MOM'S BIBLE STUDY

Mondays @ 9:30 am, starting with breakfast and then study.

KID'S CLUBS

Wednesday nights @ 6 pm. Dinner in Fellowship Hall followed by individual Clubs @ 6:30 pm for children grades kindergarten through 5th.

SUNDAY MORNING KID'S WORSHIP

THE GROVE: 9:30 & 11:00 Elementary age students

THE ORCHARD: 9:30 & 11:00 – Nursery – Preschool age children

STUDENT MINISTRIES

6th Grade Welcome, 5/31

On May 31st, we welcomed our new group of rising 6th grade students into Student Ministries! We had a great time playing fun games, introducing leaders, and giving them a sneak peek into what it's like to be in Crew. We are so thankful God gave us this group of students to disciple over the coming years.



Student Life Camp, 6/3-9

In the beginning of June, we kicked off our summer by starting our journey to Talladega, Alabama, where we would be at Shocco Springs for Student Life Camp! We brought more than 80 students to camp and began our trip by stopping in Columbus, Georgia, for Zip Lining and White-Water Rafting. After a day full of adventure, we finally arrived at Shocco Springs the next morning. While at Student Life Camp, we bonded over winning the Rec Cup, participating in amazing worship, and learning more about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Over the course of the week, we had over 20 students say “yes” to Christ and begin their life-long journey in faith. We are amazed by how God worked in our time at camp and ask that you continuously pray for those students who met Christ,

that they may be steadfast in their journey. Thank you all for your prayers of safety and encouragement and we look forward to continuing the discipleship of all our students!





VBS, 6/12-16

This summer at Vacation Bible School, the Student Ministries team oversaw the Games portion of VBS, where we led each crew in energetic games and had some leaders share a Bible verse along with a story in their life that connected to the Bible point of the day. We also had many of our students serve as leaders in various capacities throughout VBS. It was a gift to see the Lord working in their hearts, as well as through them, as they guided campers, provided energy in Games and Chatter, and had great performances on stage and in Bible Adventures. Thank you so much for the leadership of Cary Koepke, Kath Doerr, and everyone who made this year's VBS possible. It was a wonderful week filled with God's presence.



Summer Kickoff, 6/14

On June 14th, we hosted our summer kickoff to officially begin our summer programming. We planned to have a sunshine-filled night of various outdoor games. We quickly realized God had other plans for the night, as the clouds opened and gave us a classic Florida thunderstorm. Our group moved into the upstairs CY Building and revamped our night by enjoying a fun array of bonding indoor games and pizza. Both our middle and high school students had a great time and were excited to start their summer!



Fun Depot Thriller Thursday, 6/15

Each year we take our Middle School students to Fun Depot for one of our Thriller Thursdays. This year we had more than 30 students enjoy a great time playing arcade games, laser tag, and driving go-karts. This time together provided us a unique time of fun and bonding over great activities. We would like to thank Eddie and Becca Nabhan and all the Fun Depot staff for providing us this amazing opportunity each year!



Rapids Waterpark Thriller Thursday, 6/22

Our last Thriller Thursday in June was a trip to Rapids Waterpark for some fun in the sun with more than 40 middle and high school students. We spent the entire day on thrilling water slides and other refreshing activities in the park. Our Student Ministries team is grateful to have these opportunities to bond and have an exciting day with our students.

Vision Quest, 6/26-30

FPC college ministry has a tradition, started by Pastor Chris Southard, of inviting college students on a summer adventure in the mountains. The purpose of this trip is to create an intentional space of vision to study, sabbath, and contemplate navigating life decisions as young adults. Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) says that where there is no vision, the people perish. So, we intend to create a space to pray and ponder where we are in our faith and where we want to be.



This year, Kim and thirteen college students traveled to the mountains of North Georgia in the last week of June. Time was spent reading, worshipping, and fellowshiping together. We spent time reading and discussing the book 'Emotionally Healthy Spirituality' by Pete Scazzero. Several shared stories of their faith journey and we had great conversations challenging one another in discerning biblical truth. Everyone took turns preparing meals, and we went river tubing, hiking, and exploring some mountain towns. Late nights and lots of laughs made for a great week of growing together.

Below are a few quotes from students who attended:

Hannah Springer: Vision Quest was such a wholesome and fun experience. The Holy Spirit was in the midst of this trip. The seeds planted on this trip will continue to grow in my heart. I got to deepen my friendships here and make new ones. I had so much fun in Ellijay, between the tubing on the Chattahoochee River and hiking the mountains in surrounding areas. I'm so thankful for Kim; she is a true light in this trip and in this Church.

Cassie Avdellas: Vision Quest was a time for me to escape the normal rush of life and focus on building relationships with friends and God.

Lauriana Schilling: Vision Quest gave me the opportunity to see God through friendships, nature, and experiences. It's so nice to be able to worship with friends who love God as much as I do. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to further my relationship with God and my friends on our trip!!



Crew/Team

Recently we have decided to host middle school and high school students on separate nights, allowing each group to have a specialized experience. Middle school students are welcome to Crew from 6:00-7:30 pm on Wednesdays, for a time of pizza, games, and a message. High School students are invited to Team on Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00 pm for a time of dinner, worship, and a message. We are excited for what is to come for our program and students in the future. Please continue to pray that God works through our program and touches the hearts of all students.



ADULT MINISTRIES (60+)

A Message From JoAnn Hayes

Senior Adult Ministry Director

I love the summer months - even if it's in the 90's, humid and rains every day. We have reached midsummer - halfway through 2023.

For many folks, summer is a season of recovery from the chaos of the school year. Things slow down. There are pools for swimming, beaches to visit, mountains to climb and other trips to take. There are lazy evenings on a porch swing listening to the cicadas.

Summer for me as a child was spent with my grandparents at their cottage in Pt. Lookout, Michigan, on the Saginaw Bay that ran into Lake Huron. I couldn't wait to turn off the highway on to the road that took us to the cottage. I loved to walk on the beach with my grandmother and listen to her tell stories about growing up in Quebec with her seven brothers and sisters. It was my favorite place.

Woody and I won't forget this summer too soon. We were traveling (by car) to our granddaughter's high school graduation in North Carolina. We were in South Carolina in the middle of nowhere and going under an overpass when we heard something crash on the top of our car. Whatever it was, it broke the glass on the sunroof into a million pieces. We don't know what it was - if someone threw something or something broke off the overpass, but we are grateful the car was still drivable and no one was hurt.

I am looking forward to planning and being with our Adults Ministry 60+ in 2023-2024. It will be wonderful to be together.

Our **OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH (OTLB)** meets the second Friday of each month at a local restaurant.



• **September 8th OTLB** will be at the **Olive Garden** restaurant on Northlake Blvd starting at noon.

• **October 6th OTLB** will be at the **Cooper's Hawk** Restaurant in the Garden's Mall.

We celebrate **Monthly Adult Dinner** together at church once a month prepared by our church chef, Ken Coleman. After dinner, we have a program (music, speakers, entertainment). Our September Dinner & Program is on the 22nd starting at 5:30 pm. Our speaker for the evening will be announced at a later date. Dinners cost \$15/per person.

We also go on two or three field trips somewhere around our beautiful state of Florida. This past season we went to the Fort Pierce Singing Christmas Tree, celebrated a Christmas lunch together at Indiantown restaurant, and went on a lunch and boat cruise in Fort Pierce. Friends and visitors are welcome to all our events.

Women’s Small Group Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall beginning on Sept 7th.

We will be studying TOGETHER the book, “Jesus & Women” written by Kristi McLelland. The book cost is \$25. All women are invited to participate. The back cover of the book says:

“Imagine walking the dusty roads of Galilee with Jesus of Nazareth—braving jostling crowds just to touch the edge of His cloak and hear Him say, ‘Take heart, daughter, your faith has healed you.’ Those words, once meant to comfort a hurting woman’s soul thousands of years ago, were also meant for you and for me.”

PLEASE VOLUNTEER SOMEPLACE – call me at 308-9206 if you are looking for a place to volunteer.

We do not exist simply or even primarily to serve and love ourselves. Our joyful calling is to care about the spiritual and social needs of our community and beyond. Christ’s love compels us to a ministry of reconciliation through evangelism, mercy, giving and multiplying our church.

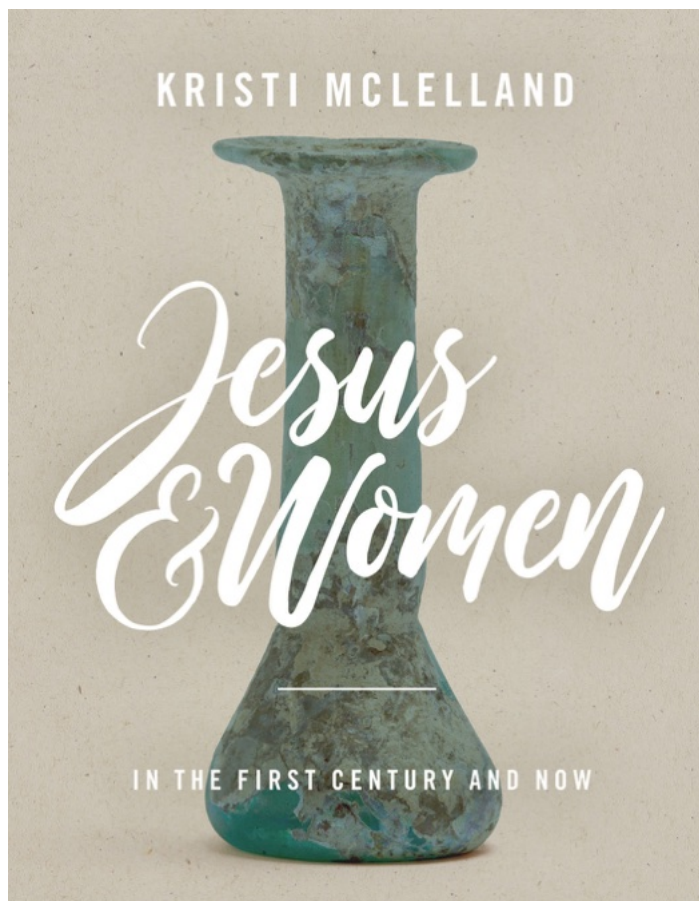
SANDWICH MAKING TUESDAY MORNINGS in the Fellowship Hall - Join this wonderful group of people (see picture to right) in making sandwiches for the people at St. Georges’ Table.

Friendship As Ministry

A message from Congregational Care

Friendship is a vitally important part of what it means to be part of a congregation; ours is full of people who go out of their way to visit and spend time with each other outside of Sunday mornings. When we develop friendships with each other, it makes us a stronger community and helps each of us when we encounter trials. It allows us to practice the gifts of hospitality and thoughtful listening. It helps us learn to love and be loved.

Some of our members are missing out on friendships because they are not able to join in community activities or worship as well as they used to. They are in need of rides to church and of friendly visits. If you are able to bless someone in either of these ways, please email me at enielsen@gmail.com or call me at 561-622-8818, x 104. Thank you, Rev. Elizabeth Nielsen



FAMILY NEWS

Baptisms

We rejoice with these couples who have dedicated themselves to raising their children to love Jesus:

Oliver Alejandro Avila, whose parents are Omar & Kara Avila, was baptized on May 28th.

Brendan Lee Wallace and **Cameron Emerson Wallace**, whose parents are Will and Jamie Wallace, were baptized on June 11th.

Members Who Have Gone To Heaven

1 Thess 4:13 – “And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.” As believers in Christ, we will see these people again!



Molly Swenson, who was a faithful choir member for well over 20 years, passed away on May 31st.

Ed Roman was a faithful member at our 11 am service since 1986 and passed away on June 5th.



Terry Elliott, one of the founding members of First Pres, passed away on June 8th.



Ladies Circle

We will be kicking off a new season of the Ladies Circle on Tuesday, September 19th at 10 am. There will be a program and afterwards a luncheon in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited to attend. Please bring a covered dish to share at the luncheon. Ladies Circle generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month from September through May.

2023 First Pres Women's 1st Friday Book Club

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

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| | <p>An Irish Country Doctor by Patrick Taylor September 8</p> |
| <p>The Mountains Sing by Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai October 6</p> | |
| | <p>Yesterday's Tides by Roseanna M. White November 3</p> |
| <p>Absolution by Murder by Peter Tremayne December 1</p> | |



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

NORTH PALM BEACH

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NORTH PALM BEACH, FL 33408

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PERMIT NO. 352

Violin & Piano Recital

Saturday, August 26 at 7:00pm

Liana Branscome, violin, and Beiyao Ji, piano
Featuring works of Mozart, Brahms, Dvorak, and
Grieg

