

June 2017 Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church Port Charlotte



For me, one of the most difficult parts of planning worship is selecting the hymns. Frankly, planning the whole worship service is difficult, if done thoughtfully. Some elements of planning comes together faster than others. I'm not sure why, but it does. And sometimes I can spend a whole day trying to envision the flow, searching for the right words to make sense while attempting to faithfully articulate what we collectively believe.

But the most difficult part of planning is selecting the hymns, especially the more I get to know the people of First Presbyterian Church. Some people like the traditional hymns. "When we sang *In The Garden* I could hear my grandmother singing it as it was one of her favorites, and she was instrumental to my faith development." And another person tells me they love *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* as it speaks them, reminding them that while "smiling, [God has] called out my name." Some people prefer more contemporary hymns, like *Awesome God*. Some could sing *Amazing Grace* every Sunday, and some wouldn't mind if we never sang that again. We all have hymn preferences. God speaks to us in different ways, and we all come to worship to be together, each bringing his or her spiritual background that may include as part of the story, a specific hymn that impacted and articulated part of his or their faith journey and understanding of God. And so we sing together hymns that speak to us and some hymns that may not, but we sing them, knowing they may be speaking to someone else, knowing that God may be speaking to our neighbors in different ways God is speaking to us.

Contrary to what some may think, when selecting hymns, I don't open the hymnal and see where my thumb lands, then say, "By golly that is the hymn we are going to sing this Sunday!" After meditating on the scripture for the upcoming Sunday while trying to listen for God's direction, the planning begins. Words are crafted into prayers and liturgy, then usually three hymns are selected that hopefully complement the scripture and theme, words and music articulating God's Word in ways where we struggle to come up with them.

We will gather Sunday as one. We will sing as one. We will listen as one for God's Word to us in the scripture read, the sermon preached and the hymns sung *expecting* God to touch us in some meaningful way. Some words spoken will be familiar and comfortable to us. And some words will be unfamiliar, maybe even uncomfortable. But we will sing and pray, even those less comfortable words, knowing God may be speaking at that moment in different ways to each of us. And we will sing. And God will speak.

Rev. Terri Jo Crego

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Bob Hull



Nothing more convinced Bob Hull that there is a God than when he survived a plane crash in Albany, New York. “The pilot lost control somehow and the plane ended up underneath a house. Seventeen people died. I was able to crawl out. I knew something special had happened to me,” he explained.

Perhaps this is why Bob’s favorite Bible verse is, “Love your Lord God with all your heart.”

Bob has been a member of FPCPC for about 30 years even though he attended other churches throughout his lifetime. “My mother had me attend the United Brethren church when I was growing up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I was married the first time in a Methodist church and I attended Presbyterian churches along the way, too,” Bob said.

Right after high school Bob attended General Electric (GE) Apprentice School to become a machinist and tool maker. However, WWII broke out so the school closed. Bob was denied entering the military because of hearing problem. Bob continued with GE as a trainer teaching women to run drill presses, lathes and machinery used for making motors.

After WWII, Bob completed his apprenticeship as a machinist and tool maker at GE. He remained with GE for the next 30 years. He was first assigned to Tiffin, Ohio where he advanced to manager of manufacturing and engineering. Next he spent 16 years at Holland, Michigan and then five years in Schenectady, New York. He spent two years in Argentina and then back to Schenectady.

Bob retired and he and his first wife, Evelyn moved to Port Charlotte in 1986. She died in 2000. “I was working on the stained glass project with Pearl Wallace in 2002. She was very nice. Six months later we were married,” he said.

During the past 30 years Bob says he has worked on all aspects of the church. “I’m a hands-on kind of guy. I’ve done carpentry, maintenance and even made things for Small World when it operated. I’ve done something in about every room of church property,” he said. Bob likes the current ministry at FPCPC. “The church has helped me to have a stronger belief in God and life within heaven,” he said.

Bob was a member of the Lions Club for many years and helped with the eye glass collection and distribution program. He held several offices with the Lions including president. For hobbies, Bob likes woodworking but also likes model trains. “I have a model train in my porch that I run.”

At age 93, Bob’s advice to youth is to “be honest and treat others as equals.”

By Kathy Lee Bruyere



CEDARKIRK

Cedarkirk summer camp fun begins!

Hang up the backpacks and put away the books because summer is here! Make sure your children are signed up for a Cedarkirk camp. There is so much fun to be had, so don't miss out on the valuable experiences a week at summer camp can offer. Camp programs provide a variety of activities and adventures, including swimming, hiking, canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, cookouts, and meeting new friends. These activities are all centered around daily Bible studies and worships that focus on our summer theme, BRANCHING OUT. Some of our camps still have availability, so register your camper today! Find specific program descriptions and register online at www.cedarkirk.org. If you have questions, please email camps@cedarkirk.org or call 813.685.4224 x2.

FPCPC VETERANS GROUP

Tuesday, July 4th

MacDonald Hall

4:30 p.m.

We will be hosting a barbeque after the Bion Cantorum concert on July 4th at 4:30 p.m. in MacDonald Hall. The cost is \$10 per person.

The Veterans Group will be taking off for the months of June, July and August. The next meeting will be September 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference room.

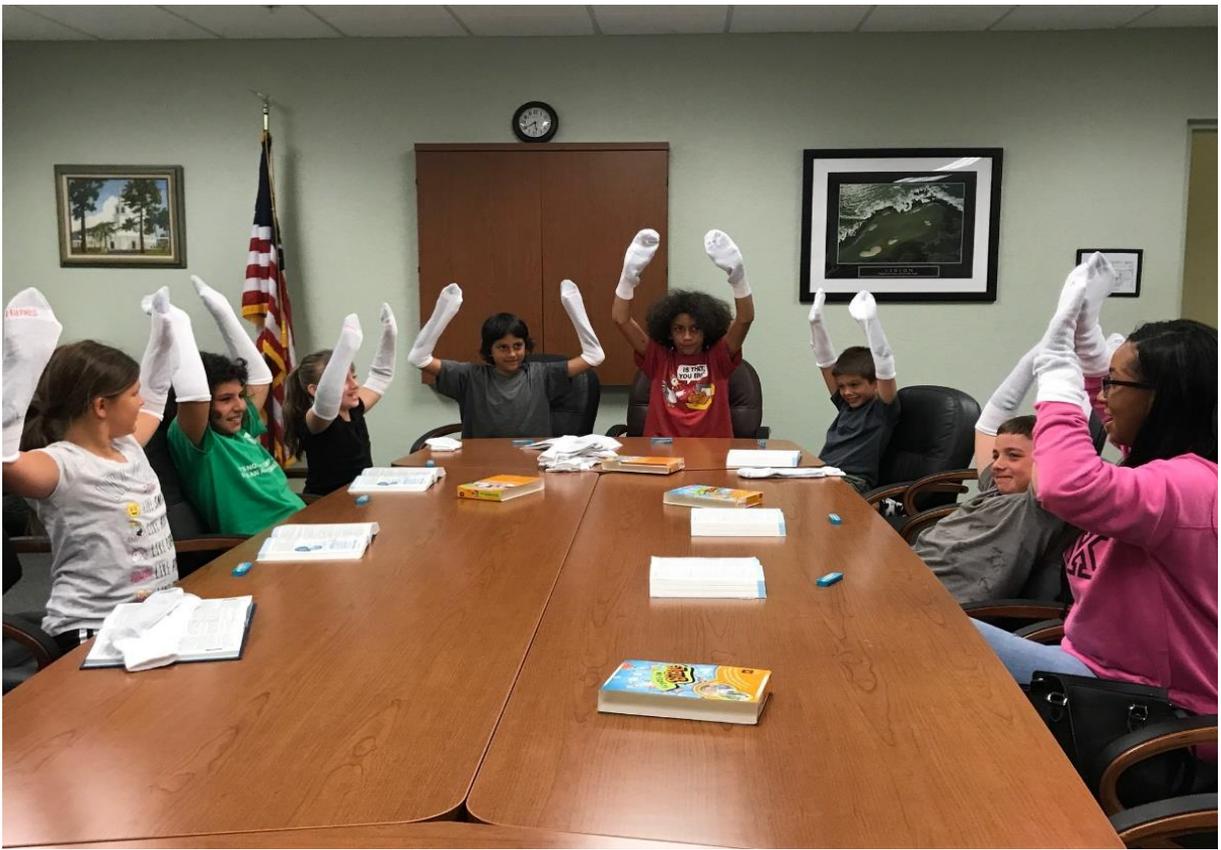
JULY 4TH

BION CANTORUM PRESENTS

OF THEE I SING

Local veterans will once again join Bion Cantorum at 3:00 p.m. on July 4th for a vocal concert to celebrate America's birthday. Patriotic Favorites will include "This Is My Country", "I Hear America Singing", "America", "Ashokan Farwell" from the sound track of Ken Burns' series on the Civil War. This year in addition to the presentation of colors by the Veterans, concert goers will not only hear our National Anthem, but also a new arrangement of the Pledge of Allegiance. Tickets for the concert are \$15.00 and are available at www.brownpapertickets.com or by calling 941-625-4945. Concert tickets will also be available at the door – check or cash only.

Following the concert will be a good old-fashioned cook-out sponsored by the Veterans Group of First Presbyterian starting around 4:30 p.m. Tickets for the cook-out are \$10.00.



KID'S BIBLE STUDY
Tuesday Evenings
5:00 p.m.
New Life Center

The Children and Youth were recently “all thumbs” at Kid’s Bible Study when they wore socks on their hands and were instructed to open a pack of gum and then unwrap a stick of gum. The message behind this activity was that sometimes when we try to speak with others about God that we are all thumbs. God will always be there to help us, and it is also easier to do this when we have friends to help us.

Our Kid’s Bible Study class is on vacation as of Tuesday, May 23 to coincide with the kids’ last week of school and start of summer vacation. A variety of activities will still take place with the children and youth throughout the summer, and these events will be at more flexible times than what we can offer during the school year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

Tanner Braun, Amina Lee and Taylor Summers



Tanner Braun just graduated from Port Charlotte High School and is planning to attend the University of Central Florida in Orlando, where he hopes to major in Political Science.

Amina Lee just graduated from Charlotte High School and is planning to begin her college career locally at Florida South Western State College in Punta Gorda and later transfer to another college to complete her studies in Social Work.

Taylor Summers just graduated from Charlotte High School and plans to attend the University of South Florida in Tampa, where she hopes to major in Criminology to become a crime scene investigator in the future.

LINCOLN/FOX/TOMLINSON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2017

Tanner Braun and Amina Lee

First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte proudly announces Tanner Braun and Amina Lee as the 2017 Lincoln/Fox/Tomlinson Scholarship recipients for 2017. Each of these high school graduates will be awarded \$1000 that will be sent to their respective colleges, and this money will be used to help offset their educational expenses. Both of these students are members of the church and meet the additional qualifications for receiving our church scholarship as well. Tanner has been an active participant in a variety of youth fellowship and service activities while he grew up in the church, and Amina has taken on an active leadership role with our Kid's Bible Study and other children's activities which are currently being offered. Tanner has attended Sunday School classes from preschool on up and contributed to great discussions, and Amina is a tremendous asset to our Christian Education Committee by offering us perspectives from a youth in our planning for children's activities. Both Tanner and Amina are on their way to continuing to make a difference in this world, and we are confident we will see amazing things from each of them.

JUNE ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays
Room 128
9:00 a.m.

Were you wondering who in the sanctuary calls out “Hi, Grandma!” when the choir enters? That’s Jeramiah and January, Alzie’s grandchildren, who are now attending Sunday School and church along with Maddy and Tru. What a wonderful class! Upcoming lessons are as follows:

June 4, Day of Pentecost: The Festival of Pentecost was the time when the Jewish people gathered to thank God for all the food that was grown in the fields. The class will learn about and celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit coming as wind to the disciples. We will make spinners and enjoy special snacks.

June 11, Trinity Sunday: We will learn that “Father, Son and Holy Ghost” is called the Trinity. We will discuss all of God’s wonderful creations around us and how God’s creations might celebrate Him through movements or drawings. If time allows, we will have a guessing game with a child start a drawing of one of God’s creations. As the child draws, we will try to guess the creation before the drawing is completed.

June 18: We start a new season in the church year, the season after Pentecost. We put a green cloth on the table to remind us that this a growing time – a time to learn about God’s love for us and the ways we can show God’s love to others. Jesus commissioned others to minister in his name. He gave his disciples the power to heal and sent them out to show God’s love. After the Bible reading, the children will make bracelets to proclaim that they follow Jesus.

June 25: Jesus continues his instructions for his disciples in Matthew 10:24-39 so they can go out on their own; his words helped the disciples to have courage. After listening to the story, the group will brainstorm for words that remind us that God is with us every day. The children will choose a word or group of words to make a yarn plaque to take home.

PENTECOST: THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, June 4th

10:00 a.m. in worship

Wear Red

On Sunday, June 4th Christians across the world will celebrate Pentecost commemorating the coming of the Holy Spirit in a mighty rush of wind and flame on the early followers of Jesus. The English word “Pentecost” is a transliteration of the Greek word *pentekostos*, which means “fifty.” It comes from the ancient Christian expression *pentekoste hemera*, which means “fiftieth day.” Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came fifty days after Jesus’ death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called “the church.” Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church was started. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it. Hence Pentecost is considered the church’s birthday. (See Acts 2:1-13)

FATHER'S DAY FIESTA

Sunday, June 18th

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

FATHER'S DAY FIESTA

Family, Fun and Fellowship Day

to

**Celebrate Father's Day
Sunday, June 18th**

11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

at

First Presbyterian Church

**2230 Harriet Street
Port Charlotte**

Everyone Invited

STEEL DRUM BAND JAMAICAN FOOD

GAMES

**FREE
EVENT**

HOME ALONE

In May, we carpooled to Broadway Palm dinner theater in Fort Myers for a performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Ten of us enjoyed a buffet lunch before being moved by the wonderful voices of the cast members and their rendition of the Easter story. Home Alone welcomes all at our church who live alone and wish to participate in additional fellowship activities. We meet twice a month on the first and third Thursdays for activities, planning, and often lunch. Our next meeting is Thursday, June 1st at 10:00 a.m. We love welcoming new participants. If you are interested in any way, call me, Jan Baker, at 386-972-3915 for more info.

CHANCEL CHOIR POSTLUDE

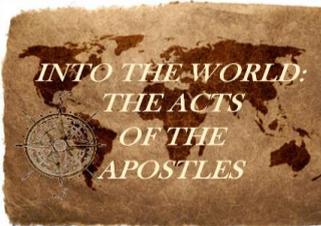
The postlude first appeared in print during the 16th century, but did not show up in church services until 1851. It is the lesser known counterpart to the prelude.

In worship, it is intended to continue the feeling of the worship. Traditionally, the organ plays the postlude and the music is of a more stirring nature and a signal for the congregation to disperse quietly while leaving the church sanctuary.

As always, we are seeking more singers for our choir to sing praises to God. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., to learn new music, sing some well-known pieces and have a lot of fun. If you would be willing to join us, all you have to do is have a love of singing. We will take care of the rest. You can contact me at jfbyron@comcast.net.
by Joan Byron, Music Director

THANK YOU AL, BRAD AND JACK

A special thanks goes out to Al Beyers, Brad Messick and Jack Leonard for doing a lot of tree maintenance on the grounds over the last three months. Al is a former member of FPCPC. While he belongs to another church now, he still gives his time, talent and heart here in many ways, including through the use of his tree removal expertise. We had two huge dead trees on the property which Al, along with the strong hands of Jack and Brad, safely chopped them down and removed from the property. Jack has also been trimming the palm trees when not doing the hundreds of other tasks his job calls him to do. Thank you Al, Brad and Jack!



ADULT BIBLE STUDY INTO THE WORLD: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. Conference Room

We will continue our Bible study of the book of *Acts* on Wednesday evenings in the Conference Room. We hope you join us.



FOOD PANTRY

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
and 2nd Wednesday of the month 5:00 p.m.-7:00



The Food Pantry continues to grow! We always have two or three new clients register every time we are open. Our Wednesday evening pantry has about six steady families and three or four new families each time. The statistics for April for the three pantries were:

Number of households served: **108**

Number of unduplicated people served: **293**

(Unduplicated people counts a person only once even though they may come to both Tuesday pantries in a month)

Duplicated people by age groups:

Number of Children Under Age 18: **83**

Number of Adults Age 18-64: **218**

Number of Seniors Age 65 +: **133**

YOU helped a total of **434** human beings in April. **THANK YOU!!!**

Thanks also to those volunteers who enjoy getting up at the crack of dawn to be at the Englewood Publix by 6:00 am to pick up the bakery items. Early Bird Club members are Brad Messick, Jack Leonard, Jan Baker, Barb and John Danylak and Joan Berry. **THANK YOU!** Our clients now look forward to bread, rolls and bakery items from Publix.

THE REQUIRED ANNUAL TRAINING FOR FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY JUNE 5, 2017 AT 10:00 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER, PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

Please don't forget to bring in your extra plastic grocery bags. We would appreciate it if you double bag the bags. As you can see from the numbers, we go through a lot each pantry. Each client leaves with at least three or four heavy, stuffed bags. Blessings to all.

By Nancy Sharpless

NEW TRUSS

Have you seen the new truss on the front of the New Life Center? It is now complete and is doing its critical job, structurally supporting and stabilizing the New Life Center. **Thank you** to all who helped make that happen by offering your expertise, and your finances. As I said in an earlier *Beacon* before the construction began, I have learned a lot about the critical important role of a truss.

“*Truss* derives from the Old French word *trousse*, from around 1200, which means "collection of things bound together." In engineering terms, a *truss* is a structure that consists of two-force members, where the members are organized so that the assemblage as a whole behaves as a single object. Trusses are made of triangles, or a series of triangles because a triangle cannot be distorted by stress. Each joint (or node in engineering language) is important to the whole as it is there that the appropriate force is created to provide stability.

Not only will our new truss be a ‘collection of things bound together,’ but so will we as the church - the Body of Christ, our image and calling undistorted by the stress and challenges we face. We are doing great things in Christ’s name as we faithfully flip the page to the next chapter of ministry together, discovering what God will write through the ministry here.”

Thank you for being a *living truss* with all its parts coming together to support the work God has in store for us in the years to come. The truss on the New Life Center will serve as a tangible reminder to me (and hopefully others) of this unique faith community living as the Body of Christ

Rev. Terri Jo Crego



MAY 2017 SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- We welcomed into membership Steve and Patty Bevens.
- Congratulations to High School Seniors Tanner Braun and Amina Lee who are each recipients of the Tomlinson/Fox/Lincoln Scholarship of \$1000 for their college expenses.
- The April 2017 Income was \$43,896.88 and Expenses were \$27,970.40.
- We noted 5 Sundays in April plus received a generous financial gift.
- A new lawn mower has been donated by someone in our congregation.
- Our church website is now live and is found at the same address: www.fpcpc.com
- Our April membership count is 158 Active Members and 8 Affiliate Members.
- Bion Cantorum will be having a concert on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 4.
- Submitted Children and Youth Volunteer background checks are clear.
- The Food Pantry Annual Volunteer Training will take place Monday, June 5.
- Special Worship Services in June include Pentecost on June 4 and Father's Day on June 18.
- A Caribbean Festival is being planned to take place after Worship on Father's Day.
- The Choir will be on hiatus for the summer following the Sunday, June 25 Worship Service and will resume in Worship on Sunday, September 3.
- A monthly testimony will be offered starting in June to focus on how God works in our lives and how we respond by giving back our time, talent, and treasures.
- Our neighbors are noticing the effort we are putting into maintaining our church grounds.



FPC April Finance Report Income vs. Expenses

	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Year – To - Date</i>
Income	43,896.88	129,407.99
Expenses	27,970.40	111,711.63
Gain	15,926.48	Gain 17, 596.46

FPCPC
2230 Hariet St
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

TO:

**The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte is:
To be a beacon in the community by leading all people into a life changing,
ever growing relationship with Jesus Christ.**

Ministry Staff

Rev. Terri Jo Crego, Pastor	pastor@fpcpc.com
Betty Smith, Financial Secretary	bsmith@fpcpc.com
Tanga Killian, Church Secretary	tanga@fpcpc.com
Jack Leonard, Facilities Manager	jleonard@fpcpc.com
Lamont "Butch" Rotert, Custodian	
Judy Prier, Organist	judyprier@comcast.net
Jeff Webster, Media Tech	jwebmay80@gmail.com
Joan Byron, Music Director	Jfbyron@comcast.net

Session

Class of 2017: Sandy Asaro, Rebekah Baird , Ambrose Woods
Class of 2018: Barbara Danylak, Nancy Sharpless, Ron Smith
Class of 2019: Joan Barry, Gail Gamble, Richard Lund

Deacons

Class of 2017: Doris Coddington, Dottie Messick, Don Phillips, Elaine Woods
Class of 2018: Dottie Gamble, Pauline Paquin, Laverne Sinkia, Donald Whitmarsh
Class of 2019: Andy Buell, Clarence Diersing, Addie Schaad, Diane Schmidt

Trustees

Richard Lund (President), Ambrose Woods (Treasurer)
Sandy Asaro (Secretary), Ron Smith (Finance Committee Elder)
Class of 2017: Bob Hull (Member at Large)
Class of 2018: Clarence Diersing (Member at Large)