



B flat

Not long ago, I was at South Port, getting ready to lead singing and a bible study along with our organist, Judy Prier. Well, if you live at South Port, you know they have been remodeling for a couple of months. It has made “doing bible study” rather challenging, never knowing which room we would be shifted to, much less if we would have a piano!

And if we had a piano and a space to gather, quite often people would walk through our room talking, seemingly without any regard to our presence or what we were trying to do. But that was not even the most challenging distraction! If we had a room, a piano, and even people talking, the real distraction was the vacuum cleaner! Almost every time we have met the last few gatherings, someone comes along with a vacuum and decides that is the time and place to get that work done!

I never will forget an awareness I had that morning. I knew what I was thinking and feeling inside (frustration.... wondering if the administration really wanted us there). All I heard was noise, and I think the noise in my head was louder than the vacuum itself! But then Judy said, in a calm voice I might add, “I believe that is in the key of B flat.” *Whaaaat????* “I believe she is vacuuming in the key of B flat.” Well the noise in my head jolted to silence, as I listened to the vacuum with a new set of ears. Walking over to the piano, I played a B flat key. And I looked at Judy and then over to the vacuum, and then back to the piano key. Judy had been listening to the “noise” very differently than I had! And now I heard music....in the key of B flat!

It made me wonder how two people in the same environment for the same purpose could hear such radically different sounds; I heard intruding noise and Judy heard music. And I wonder what it would take for me to open to hearing the distractions in my life, the interruptions and even rude comments, and hear them with ears that listen for music; listen with ears that hears deeper than the surface; listen with ears that can hear beyond my own internal noise and hears the song emerging from others. Judy is a pro at that. She is a good listener who hears in ways I want to hear. She hears in ways I want to practice hearing.

God hears that way too. God hears our “B flats” and our other songs that may just seem like noise. God sees deeper into our souls and hears the music of our souls trying to be authentic. Perhaps in the days ahead, I will try to listen differently, listening with grace-filled ears for the song and get beyond myself and my own noise, so I can hear God’s symphony being played through my brothers and sisters.

Rev. Terri Jo Crego

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

ELAINE WOODS



Elaine Woods' favorite Bible verse is 1 Corinthians 13, "The Greatest Gift". This verse has special meaning for Elaine and her husband, Ambrose, because of a vacation they took to Istanbul, Turkey and Athens, Greece.

"The most cherished time on the trip was the cruise to the Greek Islands where we walked on Ephesus, an important center for Early Christianity. It was a very spiritual time knowing that the apostle Paul had lived and walked there when he wrote I Corinthians," she said.

Elaine says that she and Ambrose were led to FPCPC where she has since served as Deacon Moderator, Liturgist and a member of several committees. Elaine and Ambrose have been married 32 years and have five children and 10 grandchildren.

"Being a member of FPCPC is like having an extended family. When you enter the doors, you feel the love, warmth and joy of being part of a Christ-centered family focused on caring for others and serving the Lord," she said.

Elaine was born into a Methodist family in Columbus, Georgia. She became actively engaged in the church at a young age. She served in numerous capacities for youth and adults in Methodist and Presbyterian churches over the years. She says she has never known a day without the love and grace of Christ.

Elaine moved to Charlotte County with her family when she was a child because her father's business was part of the initial development of Port Charlotte. Her family lived first in Punta Gorda, then in Port Charlotte.

After graduating from Charlotte High School, Elaine attended Edison State College and Columbus College in Columbus, Georgia. As she continued her education, the love of music led her to become a member of a female quartet group, to sing in a special chorus and to direct a choral group.

During her working years, Elaine enjoyed a career with SunTrust, Inc. for 30 years. She was responsible for mortgage lending and sales for more than 100 Central Florida bank branches. She also sat on a number of boards including Pace Center for Girls, State of Florida Mortgage Board of Directors and SunTrust Diversity Council.

Elaine says she finds gardening to be a stress reliever, "I believe my green thumb was passed along to me from my father who was an avid gardener," she explained. Other activities she enjoys are water sports, bicycling, working out and reading.

With Elaine's love of animals and knowing that God loves all creatures great and small, you will typically find five to seven dogs and sometimes a cat at her home. These animals have been provided a foster or forever home with her and Ambrose. Also, she has been known to rescue a bird or two as well as frogs and numerous lizards.



OPEN HOUSE at CEDARKIRK

Saturday, May 13

1:00-5:00 p.m.

Lithia, FL

Have you ever wondered what our Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center named Cedarkirk offers? There is a free Open House where you can have a guided tour around the campsite. Information on the upcoming children and youth summer camps will also be available. If you are feeling extra adventurous you can even speed down the zip-line, take an aim with archery, bounce around on a hayride, and enjoy other fun Cedarkirk activities too.

CEDARKIRK

Are you registered for summer camp yet?

June and July may seem a long way off, but Cedarkirk's summer programs are filling quickly and you don't want to miss out! Sign up today for your week of games, songs, worships, cookouts, and time to hang out with your new best friends. Try exciting activities like canoeing, the high ropes course, campfires, zip lining, and kayaking. Deepen your connection to God and learn new things about yourself as you spend time in the woods away from your usual routine. Pick up a brochure in the church office or visit www.cedarkirk.org to register online. For more information or to request a confidential scholarship, please contact the camp office at 813.685.4224 x2 or camps@cedarkirk.org.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Many times I have been asked, what is the purpose of the prelude in the church service? The first preludes to be notated were organ pieces that were played to introduce church music, the earliest surviving examples were printed in 1448, but it was not until the second half of the 17th century that they were incorporated into the church service.

The purpose of the prelude (usually played by the organist) is to enter into a holy space by quieting ourselves and preparing for worship. We enter this holy space in a number of ways: through prayer, through music, through meditation on what God might be saying to us.

In worship, music is never presented as a performance for the congregation but as an offering of praise, thanksgiving, penitence or petition to God. The prelude is part of this purpose.

Next month we will investigate the purpose of the Postlude.

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

We as adults know what a special time Holy Week is in the life of the church, and this year we had an opportunity to have fun sharing the significance of the different events of Holy Week with our children and youth as well. These pictures show some of our fun memories.

4/9/17 Palm Sunday: We had a chance to wave palms with our church family in the Worship Service. Before that in Sunday School class we learned about Palm Sunday and even had fun helping to fill the eggs with candy for next week. Thank you to everyone who brought candy in for us to enjoy.

4/10/17 Peeps Diorama Night: We had such a fun time using Peeps marshmallow bunnies and chicks to design different scenes inside a shoebox. Each of us made up a different theme and used our creativity.

4/11/17 Kid's Bible Study Night: This week at Bible Study we had a chance to participate in hearing and telling parts of the Easter Story with Resurrection Eggs. There were 12 eggs and each one had a different object to help us learn more about what happened before, during, and after Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

4/16/17 Easter Sunday: In Sunday School class we got to hear the Easter Story and have fun at the Easter Egg Hunt. The story talked about what happened from Palm Sunday through Easter. At the egg hunt there were a lot of eggs with candy inside that we could take home with us. We even got extra eggs so we could try and make our own egg hunts at home.





MAY ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays

Room 128

9:00 a.m.

HE IS RISEN! RISEN INDEED! Easter is such a joyous time! The children of our church enjoyed the special activities of the Easter season. All of the young ones met together to hear the Easter story. And then the Easter Egg Hunt! The younger ones searched for eggs in their classroom across from the parlor. Colton, Maddie, Jeramiah and January all went home with huge smiles, two baskets of candied filled eggs and two boxes of filled eggs to hide at home for the family. As the Easter season continues, lessons focus on the children will become more aware of the presence of God around them.

- May 7: The lesson is based on Psalm 23. By playing a board game we will learn about a shepherd's job and then will discuss how God is our shepherd watching over us and caring for us. We will also make a sheep to take home.
- May 14: In John 14:6 Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Jesus is trying to comfort his disciples as he will soon be leaving them. He wants them to realize that they can see God in the good things that he has done. Our discussion will center around thoughts on where we can see God. Each child will make a mini poster about where they can see God.
- May 21: We will celebrate God's wonderful creations by making sun catchers with flower petals and leaves in the center. Paul told the people of Athens that the God he worshiped is the creator of the world and everything in it. This God is the Lord of heaven and earth. (Acts 17:22-31)
- May 28: Prayer is so important in our lives. This week's lesson is based on John 17: 1-11 and will emphasize prayer. The children will each make a prayer chain to take home to use during the week.

KID'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Evenings

5:00 p.m.

New Life Center

Kid's Bible Study continues to meet each week on Tuesday nights at 5:00 p.m. We begin our time together playing basketball, followed by a time of fellowship while we have some snacks, and complete our time with a hands-on activity relating to a Bible verse or passage.

In sticking with our theme of love, we recently read Romans 5:8, "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." We did an activity that focused on how God does show His love for us, and then elaborated with how others show their love for us. In addition, we shared how we can show God and others our love too. We also talked about what it meant that we were sinners and Christ died for us.

SMARTPHONE TIPS AND TRICKS

Sunday, May 7, 2017

11:15 a.m.

Conference Room



The Outreach Committee is offering a smartphone drop-in training opportunity.

If you have a question about using your cell phone, bring it to church then come by the Conference Room after worship and ask your questions. Youth and adults will be there to try to answer your questions and help you better understand how to use your phone.



CHURCH-WIDE POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesday, May 10

5:30 p.m.

New Life Center

The Christian Education Department invites everyone to join us for a fun evening with a Cinco de Mayo theme...five days late. Fixings and meat will be provided for making tacos, and we would appreciate it if attendees would please bring a side dish or dessert to share. After dinner, you will have the opportunity to swing at piñatas.

HOME ALONE

Thursday, May 4--Matinee for Jesus Christ Superstar at the Broadway Palm. Please Note: One table for eight has already been reserved and filled. Others wishing to participate need to reserve ASAP. Please contact Jan Baker for reservation details. Admission is \$55 for a nice lunch and the performance. Car-pooling from the church at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 18--Meet & Eat at the Smoke 'n Pit on King's Hwy. Drive individually unless transportation is needed. More information will follow.

VETERANS MEETING

Wednesday, May 18th

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room

The Veterans Group will have their next meeting on Wednesday, May 18th at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference room. The widows of Vets are invited too. We will be discussing the Memorial Day Picnic, which is May 29th at Noon. Start thinking about what and who you are going to bring, especially a Vet.

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

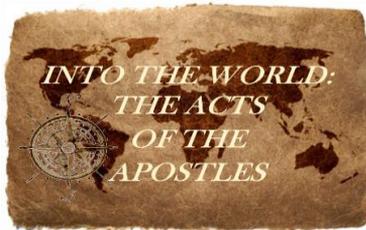
Monday, May 28th

Noon

in the Memorial Garden



Join us for the Memorial Day Ceremony and picnic. We will begin in the Memorial Garden and continue inside MacDonald Hall. After the ceremony, we will have an indoor picnic. Hamburgers, hotdogs and the toppings will be served. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The cost is \$2 for adults/\$1 for children.



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

Get to know your faithful Food Pantry volunteers! We are blessed to have the Tuesday crew:
Jan Baker, Joan Barry, Veronica Walters Betts, Michael “Mitch” Bonhomme,
Doris Coddington, Barb and John Danylak, Bill and Trudy Eisenmenger,
George and Jackie Griffith, Nancy Haines, Tanga Killian, Larry Law, Jack Leonard,
Richard Lund, Ross MacLeod, Brad Messick, The Morman Elders, Butch Rotert,
Audreyann Parent, Sandee Pellerin, Deborah Phelps, Tom Sanders, Nancy Sharpless,
Nancy Suarez, Jeff Taylor, Natalie Wanamaker.

The Wednesday Evening crew:

Donna Dingle, Sandee Pellerin, Bill Schaff, Donald Whitmarsh, Donna Young

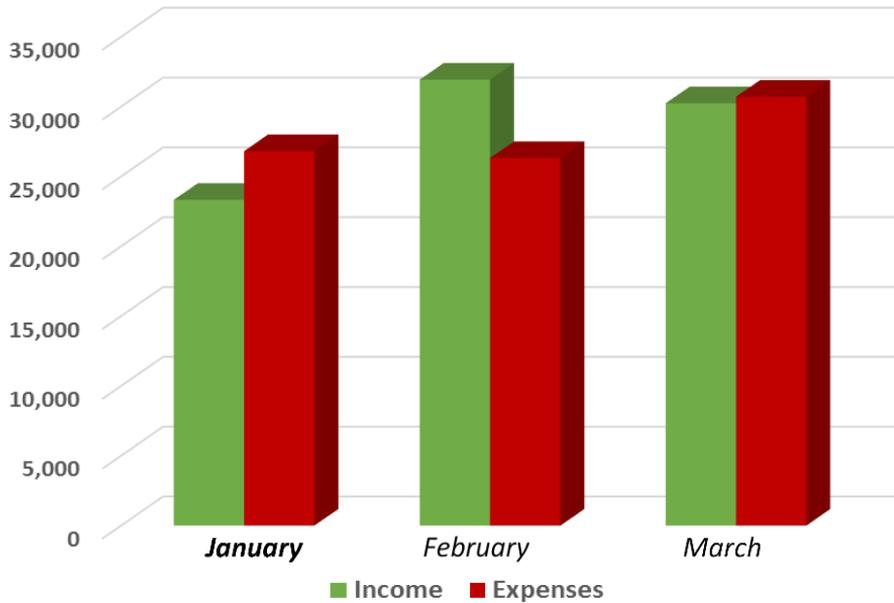
The Thursday Delivery crew:

Jorge Anthony Garcia, George and Jackie Griffith, Larry Law, Richard Lund,
Sandee Pellerin, Bill Schaff

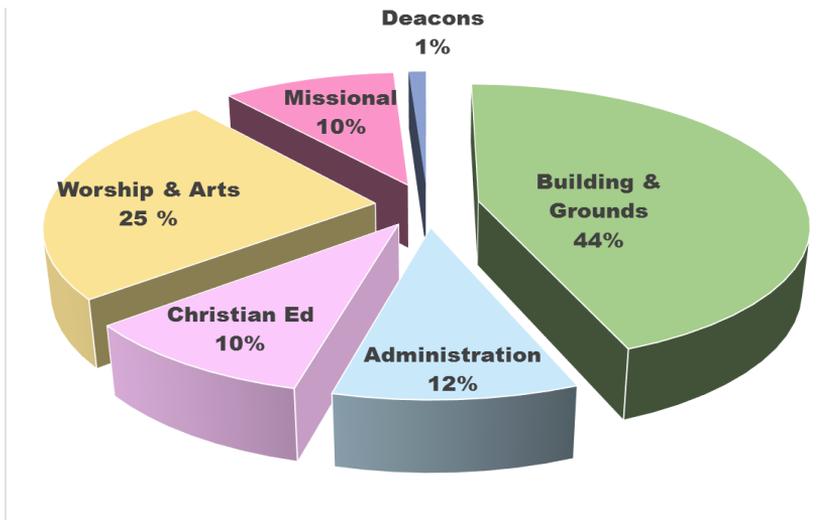
Please drop off your old grocery bags in the Church office or in the box labeled Food Pantry in the Sanctuary.



January- March 2017 Income vs Expenses Gain for Quarter \$1,670



How Expenses are Distributed



APRIL 2017 SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Congratulations to Mr. Donald Phillips and Ms. Theresa Rucker on their recent wedding.
- The Food Pantry is serving on the average of 59-65 families on Tuesdays plus 8 more on Wednesday nights.
- We are very grateful to Pine Shores for their donation of \$3000 to our Food Pantry.
- The March 2017 Income was \$30,245.35 and Expenses were \$30,710.51.
- A Technology Help class took place recently, and it was exciting to see different generations leading and learning from one another. Another will be held the first Sunday of May.
- Our church website is being redesigned and can still be found at www.fpcpc.com.
- The contract has been signed with Coral Coast Construction and work has begun on the truss repair project.
- A church workday took place to clean the grounds in preparation for Holy Week.
- Background checks have begun on children and youth volunteers in order to work towards compliance with our Administrative Manual policies.
- Some of our children will be sponsored to attend a week at Cedarkirk Summer Camp.

THANK YOU

The Building and Grounds Committee would like to THANK the volunteers that came out on Saturday the 11th to help us clean up the campus for Holy week. The volunteers were Pastor Terri Jo, Richard Lund, Bob and Pearl Hull, Elaine and Ambrose Woods, Jack Leonard, Jan Baker and Brad Messick. Also, the Building and Grounds Committee is looking for volunteers to take on a job as the Memorial Garden caretakers. This job needs at least two or three persons to maintain the grounds. If you are interested please give Brad or Jack a call at the church or come to the church during the week and speak with us.



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)