



FIRST NEWS

"Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ"

February 2023

February is always a busy time in the life of our congregation. In February, we accept the Super Bowl offering for hunger needs within our county. February is a time when we have the highest levels of attendance and participation and activity in the life of our congregation. February is also the month in which we celebrate Valentine's Day.

There are times in which I feel like Valentine's Day has been hijacked by Hallmark. Valentine's Day was originally meant to be a worshipful celebration in recognition of Saint Valentine. Instead, it has been turned into a romantic spending spree. Every year millions, if not billions, of flowers are purchased whether the recipient likes flowers or not. Every year millions, if not billions, of pounds of chocolate is purchased whether the recipient likes it or not. Every year millions of cards are exchanged, whether they are enjoyed and kept or not.

Valentine's Day is about kindness and generosity to the vulnerable and those who are hurting. It was Saint Valentine, the bishop of Myra, who would give to the poor. Particularly he would give to poor women and, thus, who did not have a family dowry center were unable to marry. Saint Valentine was generous and kind hearted. He also befriended his guards while in prison though ultimately martyred for his faith.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day it is fine and wonderful and correct to celebrate the loves of our life. At the same time, we should look out for those who are the most vulnerable. We should be willing to care for and acknowledge those in need.

So this Valentine's Day and this February, I would ask you to do three things. If you are able, give your beloved flowers, chocolate, and a card. I don't want to get in trouble for that. Second, give thanks for the love that God has for you. None of us are truly deserving of the love that God has for us, yet we are the recipients of that love. And third, think about others who are hurting and who grieve this Valentine's Day, and reach out to them with compassion and concern.

Have a great February and enjoy the loves that are a part of your life. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Tim

Financial Seminar – SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 12:00 - 2:00 PM, including a light lunch.

Our guest speakers will be Robert Hay, Presbyterian Foundation, Michael Kmetz, CPA, Will Kirk, Esq., Scott Westermann, Treasurer First Presbyterian and affiliated with Raymond James and Allan Bixby, Director of Development, First Presbyterian. This seminar will provide pertinent updates on Estate Planning, Income Taxation, Gifting, Economic Outlook and First Presbyterian's Endowment Fund.

Please plan to attend and bring a quest. This is your opportunity to ask questions relating to these subjects. Please email Lisa at: lisa@firstpresvero.org or call her at 772-562-9088, Ext 122 to



Volunteers Needed



Looking for volunteers to run the
dishwasher for Wednesday Night Dinners
No experience required

ADDED BONUS

Free Dinner

Contact : Carol Marks

(412) 980-1511

cmarks176@gmail.com

Presbyterian Man and Veteran, Jim Hart

By Phil LoGiudice

This month it is my honor to write about a Presbyterian Man who served our country for many years, retired in 2008 and continues to serve veterans of the military. I want to acknowledge that I was able to use some interesting bits of information from an article published by Vero Beach Magazine and another from the office of Senator Debbie Mayfield who honored Jim as constituent of the week recently.



Rear Admiral James "Jim" Hart is a 33-year Veteran of the United States Navy. The distinction of Rear Admiral is the highest naval rank maintained during peacetime, requiring commitment, performance, and leadership, all of which exemplify James Hart. During his Navy career he deployed on eight aircraft carriers and was assigned to six squadrons. He commanded at the Squadron, Air Wing, and Joint Task Force levels. As a Naval Flight Officer, he participated in the Cold War, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Iraq conflicts securing our nation's interests and safeguarding Americans and allies. In Bosnia, he flew on the first night mission, and in Kosovo, he was the Senior Navy Planner for the Air War. While in Iraq, he conducted precision strikes against military targets protecting American servicemembers and innocent civilians.

Ten years ago, Jim joined the Space Coast Honor Flight as a volunteer. He has served in every capacity that the veterans manage, and in 2019 he took on the role of President. SCHF takes our veterans to Washington D.C. for an all-expense paid visit to our nation's war memorials. At least 25 men from First Presbyterian have made this incredible trip over the years. Currently, 30 veterans along with 30 guardians, several staff members including a doctor and an EMT take the flight. Since 2010 over 1,700 vets have been treated to the flight. Each year a team of volunteers manages six to seven flights aboard Southwest Airlines. In 2023 six flights are scheduled starting in April. Space Coast Honor Flight is focused on making sure that World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Vets get their trip to D.C. They are always seeking Vets from these wars. The volunteers urge veterans they meet to sign up for the trip. Many grateful recipients of these unforgettable trips become volunteers after their flight.

Jim always mentions at the orientation for an upcoming flight that Space Coast Honor Flight is run by volunteers, and no one gets paid. For every dollar donated, 97 cents go to the veterans. The one-day, all-expense paid Honor Flight trip includes motor coach transportation from Melbourne to Orlando International Airport, flight to Baltimore-Washington International Airport, a bus ride to the memorials throughout Washington, D.C., all meals, and a return trip to Melbourne.

Besides seeing the beautiful memorials, the Vets always remark on the fantastic reception they have received at the airports and all around the D.C. area from crowds of enthusiastic visitors. Many of the veterans never got that kind of welcome when they returned from active duty. At the reunions one month after the flight, many have told how touched they were by the sights and crowds.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Jim is unbelievably busy. Besides the flights and programs at the Wickham Center, and many fund-raising events, there are four lunches each month for veterans, their friends, and families that Jim attends. These are great times where veterans and their friends can reminisce and keep in touch. The closest restaurant of the four is Cap't Hiram's in Sebastian. Cap't Hiram's supports veterans by giving them a 10% discount on all meals. All are welcome to attend on the third Tuesday of each month. Of course, Presbyterian men are very welcome to join us for breakfast every Tuesday morning. This month we began having breakfast at the 19 th Hole Restaurant at Vista Royale off US 1 in

Vero Beach. Great food and great company! For the last several years Jim has attended the Men's Fellowship breakfast. And even with his busy schedule, he still manages to come to breakfast at least twice a month. Several of the members of our church volunteer at SCHF.

Jim and his wife Lyn live in Vero Beach.

THE TIM CUP IS RETURNING!

Please keep April 1 available on your calendars for our "annual" golf tournament to support our college scholarship fund. We have so many youth participating in the life of our congregation. The scholarship fund allows us to be engaged in the life of our youth, as they move on to their collegiate studies.

The tournament is a scramble. If you know golfers and can establish a foursome, please strive to do so. If you are a single, or don't have a foursome, we will pair you with some fun people. Please invite friends and other golfers to participate.

If you would like to sponsor a hole, please call the church office. If you would like to be a sponsoring partner of the tournament, please call the church office. This will be the first time since Covid that we have been able to return to the tournament. We look forward to its success.

Of course, our youth are the winners of this tournament. If you are the winning foursome, you get your names etched into the Tim Cup for all to see.

So mark your calendars, and be ready to have lots of fun as we support the scholarship fund.

It is wholly appropriate that this tournament is held on April Fool's Day.

Mark your calendars!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Woman at First Presbyterian, 2023 Opening Luncheon

Enjoy the photos from the first meeting of the year on the 9th of January. The meeting opened with Sue Coffey recounting 2022 PW activities. Debbie Lindsay was her co-chair. Holly Adams led worship reminding us to observe the Sabbath as a day of rest and renewal in our busy lives. Holly then led the Installation of New Officers:

Thanks to the Nominating Committee for finding a new Board.



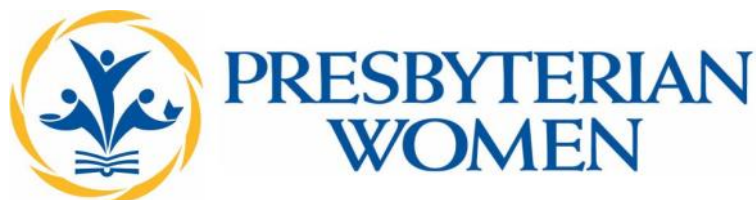
Chefs Carol Campbell and Susie Nystrom provided tasty deli sandwiches, cookies and cupcakes for lunch.

Grace Circle meets Feb. 13, 11:30 to 1. Wellspring has its final gathering on Friday Feb. 9th.



Next meeting PW meeting is Feb. 6th in the Earnshaw Room in the Christian Life Center.

Respectfully submitted: Sally Dussing



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Profile of a Presbyterian Woman: Ashley Wright

By Ann Faunce

Please meet Ashley Wright, the young woman who is in charge of child care during our Church services and also helps with Quest, the afterschool Christian based program at the church on Wednesday afternoons. She loves the little ones and seeing their smile with obvious pleasure as she responds and relates to them and they to her!

Ashley went through some tough times in her young life. As a foster child, she lived in different homes. She remembers it as a "sad time feeling that no one wanted her". At age 8, her Pre-K teacher adopted her and Ashley was happy that she finally had someone who cared. About that time, she began attending First Presbyterian Church with her grandparents, Yvonne, and Kenneth, an usher and Deacon. (For those of you who were here during those years, you may remember that Yvonne helped with our Wednesday afternoon programs serving snacks to the children.) Then during her middle school years, Ashley was invited to join the youth choir by Stephanie Womack. Later, Pastor Fred Foy encouraged her to participate in the youth group.



As a teenager, Ashley connected with (then) Youth Director, Rob White. Rob's future wife, Tracy, became her friend and confidant. The "people at First Presbyterian Church helped mold the person I am!" She finds everyone at First Presbyterian to be so "friendly and accepting." She was baptized and confirmed the same day. Deb Pierce, a past Elder, says of Ashley, "Ashley has been a faithful servant of Jesus Christ since her confirmation here at First Presbyterian and a faithful member serving the youngest in our community. It is a joy watching Ashley interact with our children and the family ministries. She really cares about each one of them". Deb also tells a story showing Ashley's heart of love and deep connection to children. Deb relates, "I was talking to a young couple who asked if there was a nursery for an event and Ashley happened to walk up. She leaned down to the level of the children and called them each by name and welcomed them!"

Ashley believes in giving back to the community. She tried different avenues such as ROTC in high school and Early Childhood Education classes at IRC but decided against them. She also worked in restaurants as a server and found that she enjoyed meeting people. But, after 3 months of training as a medical assistant at the Treasure Coast Technical College, she found her calling. She now works with Dr. Peirone at Whole Family, a position she's held for three years.

In her free time Ashley loves to go to the zoo in Brevard and West Palm with her best friend Christopher. They also love to walk nature trails and visit historical places like St. Augustine.

Ashley's favorite Bible verse is Luke 10:27 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and, Love your neighbor as yourself." We are so glad that Ashley is a part of our congregation.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY!

- 1 Karen Deigl, Marta Schneider, Pete Smith
- 2 Dorothy Flynn, John Klasing
- 3 Ted Fuller, Holly Ann LoGuidice
- 4 Betty Burgess, Art Irvine, Alice McKenna
- 5 Ashlee Offutt, Harry Offutt, Gloria Raines, Henry Ray
- 6 Cindy Judd, Gerry Marvin, Jessica Russell, Bill Thompson
- 7 Sandi Cooke, Cindy Rogers
- 8 Roger Wagner
- 10 Elliott Bates, Marilyn Baucknecht, Ryan Capone, Emily Lagemann, Bob Lang, Harriet Moore
- 11 Donald Guisto
- 12 John Barley, Vernon Daniel, Emelie Horsley
- 13 Barry Berg, Susan McGarry
- 14 Elly O'Connor
- 15 Dale Peirce
- 16 Sally Dussing, Tom Miller, Alan Wolford
- 17 Patti Frantz, Nikki Kaufmann
- 18 Barbara Power
- 20 Lyn Smith
- 21 Lona Bang-Olsen, Robert Gallagher, Gail Murdough
- 22 Carol Campbell
- 23 Robbie Broeffle, Jamari Chandler, Evan Chilberg, Rachel Horowitz
- 25 Stanford Erickson, Monty Gasche, Richard Springmyer
- 26 Peggy Clarke, John Lindsey
- 27 Pam Dolby, Joe Moore, Ann Weir
- 28 William Hutchison

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS...

To all who attended Wednesday's (1/11) dinner event, I want to express my gratitude and true shock at what was presented. As many of you know I am rarely surprised by much, and this event certainly ended up being one of the most surprising experiences I have ever had. I am honored by your recognition and thoughtfulness, and wanted to convey my appreciation at each of you for making the time to be there. It is clear that being here with you has profoundly changed every aspect of my life, and it is the most positive experience both professionally and personally that I have ever encountered. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to work here, to live in this place, and to have formed so many close and meaningful relationships. Your generosity and giving spirit is truly contagious, and I feel a constant source of inspiration from you all.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart in every way.
-Jacob Craig

CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

Rev. Holly Adams, Minister of Congregational Care

Dr. Sam Rutland, Theologian in Residence

Dr. Jacob Craig, Director of Music & Arts

Peter Mahtani, Assistant Director of Music & Arts

Ginny Bauer, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Pastors

Kimberly Ball, Financial Administrator

Lisa Jeffra, Administrative Assistant

ELDERS

(*indicates Elder/Trustee)

Class of 2023 *Allan Bixby, James Ewing, Judy Garrett, *Linda Masterson

Class of 2024 Art Haeberle, Rebecca Palmer, *Pat Pritchett, *Brad Smith

Class of 2025 Carol Campbell, *Carol Marks, Susie Nystrom, *Bob Satola

Clerk of Session - Keith Martin

Treasurer - Scott Westermann

Director of Development - Allan Bixby

Trustees-at-Large

2023 - Will Kirk

2024 - Lisa Barnes

2025 - Steve Harrison

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023

Dr. Lucille Craig, Shirley Douglas, Jenifer Foster, Robin Perry, Mimi Rutland, Bob Stuart

Class of 2024

John Barley, Raleighine Hoppe, Holly LoGuidice, Beth Pritchett, Chris Harrison, Bonnie Nolan

Class of 2025

Donna Blankenship, Gayle Bruce, Nancy Bucklew, Cindy Judd, Bill Menzies, Frank Smith



First Presbyterian Church

520 Royal Palm Blvd
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Meet & Greet



Mr. Manatee's

February 16th @ 12pm

Limited seating to 30 participants.

RSVP to Lisa via email:
lisaj@firstpresvero.org or by calling the
church office at 772-562-9088

FEBRUARY SERMONS

Rev. Dr. G Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

February 5, 2023
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
"Christ and Him Crucified"

February 19, 2023 (Transfiguration Sunday)
Matthew 17:1-9
"It's Good For You to Be Here"

February 12, 2023
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
"God Gives the Growth"

February 26, 2023
Luke 4:1-13
Live Differently:
"Probation"

Ash Wednesday
Communion/Imposition of Ashes
7:00 PM – February 22, 2023

Sunday Worship Times
8:30am in the Mighell Chapel; 9:30am & 11:00am in the Sanctuary

We are pleased to offer childcare for all services. Our children's Sunday School runs concurrent with our 9:30am service. We will also be having Fellowship Time with coffee and cookies after all worship services.

The first Sunday of every month is Communion Sunday. If you are worshipping from home via LiveStream and would like one of our fellowship cups, please call the church office and we will see that one gets delivered to you. In addition, you may also procure your own elements.