



# FIRST NEWS

Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ

## The Credible Church

Having “credibility” is a necessary character to possess if you hope to positively attract others and to be heard. Credibility is the degree to which something or someone is believable, trustworthy, and reliable. In the life of a church, credibility is established based on whether the congregation follows faithfully the teaching and example of Jesus.

Through July, August, and September, First Presbyterian Church will be engaged in focusing on what makes us “authentic” Christians. According to church statistics, people have not left the church because of struggles with theology, the miraculous, or tradition. Most left because they felt that the church they have left has not been authentic to the gospel. Our task is to be as faithful as possible to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our summer series is designed to help us be as authentic as we can. Surprisingly, we will use the oldest church creed, the Nicene Creed, to help us in this journey. The Nicene Creed is the only creed that is utilized by Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox alike. The beginning of each segment of the Nicene Creed states what we believe corporately is the church, we believe...

**All Together Now - June 29 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

**The One and Only - July 13 - Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

**The World's True Lord - July 20 - John 1:1-10**

**The Story About Stories - July 27 - John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 8:8-9**

**New Beginning in the End - August 3- Acts 1:1-11**

**Giver of Life - August 3 - August 10 - Galatians 5:13-18; 22-26**

**An Impossible Dream - August 24 - Ephesians 4:1-6**

**A New Family - August 31 - Galatians 3:23-29**

**A More Beautiful Hope - September 21 - Ephesians 5:8-16a**

**10. Amen - September 28 - Acts 4:32-35**

Sincerely,  
Pastor Tim

First  
Presbyterian

**July 2025**

520 Royal Palm Blvd.  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
firstpresvero.org  
772-562-9088

## An Extraordinary Opportunity to Multiply Your Impact

**“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”— 2 Corinthians 9:7**

**As we begin worshipping in our new temporary home—The Worship Center—we reflect with gratitude on the generations of faith, fellowship, and transformation that took place in our beloved sanctuary. That sacred space is now being prepared for demolition, making way for a new sanctuary that will serve future generations with the same spirit and faithfulness of worship and purpose. Until that day comes, McAfee Hall, the Worship Center, will be our home for weekly services, filled with the same grace and mission that defines First Presbyterian Church.**

**We are very excited to share a truly transformational opportunity that has the power to bring us closer than ever to realizing our vision.**

**An anonymous donor has pledged a \$1,000,000 Matching Challenge—doubling every new pledge or increase to an existing pledge made between now and December 31, 2025. This incredible gift will match dollar for dollar contributions made during this period.**

**Even more: gifts made to rededicate a faceted glass window also qualify for the match. These legacy gifts are already a meaningful way to honor loved ones or family names—and now they can have twice the impact. To date, we have already received \$230,000 in pledges that qualify for the match.**

- Total Pledges & Donations: \$13,465,640
- Cash Collected: \$10,651,330
- Faceted Window Program Contributions: \$540,000

**If we meet the full match, we will be within \$535,000 of our \$16 million goal—an extraordinary achievement for the first year of our campaign.**

**“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8**

**We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can be part of this defining moment in the life of our church. Whether through a new pledge, an increased gift, or a window dedication, your generosity will be matched and multiplied—and will help build our sacred space for generations to come.**

**With gratitude and hope.**

**Sincerely,**

**Pastor Tim  
Senior Pastor**

## Why I'm IN (in 100 words or less)

Decades ago, lacking children, my wife and I decided to leave most of our estate to charity, near the top of which is FirstPres. All my life I've heard that what we have is a gift of God, and our new Sanctuary is an excellent opportunity to return some of that gift to Him. The church needn't wait for its share of my estate when I can give a portion now and be able to see what God can do with the gifts of a cheerful giver.

## NEW SANCTUARY PROGRESS REPORT, July 2025

These are exciting times for everyone working on the new Sanctuary. Permitting reviews are going well, the loan agreement is on track, financial accounting is up to speed, insurance requirements are met, construction drawings and shop drawings, bids by the major vendors and subcontractors came to Proctor Construction by the end of last month.

The Capital Campaign is doing amazingly well. The anonymous \$1,000,000.00 Matching Fund (for donations from June 1st to December 31st) is quickly attracting donors. The pledges and donations continue to come in, with a total of over 108 church families - so far - contributing.

Thank you, Holly LoGiudice, who found - and with Phil LoGiudice, supervised the removal of donations to four churches, including Margate and Belle Glade, who took pews, furniture, projectors, speakers, chairs during June 14th and 21st weekends.

The removal of the Dalle de Verre faceted glass windows is almost complete by this publication date, and the re-dedication of them continues to take place. A generous member of Presbyterian Women has donated the \$35,000 re-dedication expense amount, for the "Women's Association" window. Presbyterian Men have also donated the re-dedication expense for their window. As the number of windows available for re-dedication dwindles, we are confident that the new, special installation will be a blessing to all.

This month will see the installation of construction fencing, and the commencement of "Proctor Preparations" and other fascinating changes - heavy equipment, construction materials and construction workers will begin to appear - a delight for those construction watchers.

According to Project Manager and Member Mike Snyder, the end date for construction indicates we may celebrate Christmas in the new Sanctuary in 2026. Of course, we must remember to temper that expectation with the unknowns of construction - particularly with the schedule spanning two hurricane seasons - and the odd tornado. God will see us through it all.

Mike Snyder

## CONTACT Your New Sanctuary Awaits Capital Fund Committee Officers

Co-Chair: Bill King cell: 917-375-7160  
email: [billking28@gmail.com](mailto:billking28@gmail.com)

Co-Chair: Scott Westermann, cell: 719-649-1214  
email: [swestermann01@me.com](mailto:swestermann01@me.com)

Financial Administrator, Kimberly Ball: tel: 772-562-9088, ext. 111  
email: [kimberlyb@firstpresvero.org](mailto:kimberlyb@firstpresvero.org)





**Discipleship**

**BE LOVED.**

**BE KIND.**

**BE YOU.**



**Vacation Bible School, June 9th - 13th was a campus-wide success, with 162 singing, tie-dyeing, finger painting, game-playing children consuming fresh air, fresh fruit and boxes of healthy treats and learning more about God every day. A wonderful testament to Christian Educator Director Jessie Kuehner and her team of dedicated 'helper bees', who executed and put up decorations, who led activities and all those who provided material and moral support to all. Thank you for all you do in God's name.**



**For more information about this summer's events at FPV for children: Kids in the Kitchen, Kids Art Camp and Kids Bible Blast Music Camp, look on Realm.org under "Events" for more information or click on this link below:**  
**<https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri54478/Registrations>**

**From the FirstPresVero Archives 1955:**

**The 1955 Daily Vacation Bible School: Five mornings in June, total enrollment 35 children and 15 adults, average attendance 30 children and 15 adults, met in the Manse and in the Ryburn and Amos homes. Eleanor Amos, Chairman.**

## **Contemplating Calvin**



**THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD NATURALLY IMPLANTED IN THE HUMAN MIND.**

**"That there exists in the human minds and indeed by natural instinct, some sense of deity, we hold to be beyond dispute, since God himself, to prevent any man from pretending ignorance, has endued all men with some idea of his Godhead, the memory of which he constantly renews and occasionally enlarges, that all to a man being aware that there is a God, and that he is their Maker, may be condemned by their own conscience when they neither worship him nor consecrate their lives to his service.**

**All men of sound judgment will therefore hold, that a sense of deity is indelibly engraven on the human heart. And that this belief is naturally engendered in all, and thoroughly fixed as it were in our very bones, is strikingly attested by the contumacy of the wicked, who, though they struggle furiously, are unable to extricate themselves from the fear of God."**

**[Calvin, John, Institutes of The Christian Religion Chapter 3; p.70]**

**the full "Institutes" is available on Amazon for as low as 99 cents.**

**Dr Lucille S Craig**



## The Extraordinary Leagues of FirstPresVero

The period of adjustment to accommodate worship in McAfee Hall during demolition and construction has revealed the incredible talents of the true 'Movers and Shakers' of FPCVB.

First- there is the League of Extraordinary Chair Movers, who set up, and take down the new lovely blue "comfy chairs" for Sunday worship. They unloaded them from the van when they arrived last month, and they have rallied to the call to take them down for Vacation Bible School, and then to re-install them afterwards.

Then there is the League of Extraordinary Pew Movers and Loaders. They dismantled - unbolted all of the pews, under the eagle eye of HollyAnn LoGiudice, and the direction of Phil LoGiudice - aided by Jerry DuHaime.



**GALLERIES AT**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**520 ROYAL PALM BLVD**  
**VERO BEACH**

**OPENING RECEPTION:**  
**SUNDAY**  
**JULY 13, 2025**  
**1PM-3PM**

**ART EXHIBIT FEATURING ARTISTS:**  
**JUDY BURGARELLA**  
**BARBARA BISHOP**  
**WELDON STOUT**



**FLAMINGO BY BARBARA BISHOP**



**NIGHT BLOOMING CEREU**  
**BY JUDY BURGARELLA**

## PW News - July 2025

### Christmas Tree Lane/Unique Boutique

September 4<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is Donation Date.

Start cleaning out your storage places, your kitchen cabinets and your jewelry drawers for “previously owned”, antique/collectible - or new and nice - items you no longer want.

The proceeds will benefit the Missions that Presbyterian Women support every year. Box them up and save until Thursday September 4<sup>th</sup> when the collection committee will once again be taking your donations.

Last year, PW was able to use the proceeds of CTL/UB to help numerous local organisations who serve our community. Be part of that, this year by donating usable, clean, items (No books - space is limited - or clothing, or large items please) Questions? contact Carol Freeman 910-448-0771

### Presbyterian Women- From the Archives 1955

**The Association of Women.** Thirty-two ladies of the First Presbyterian Church met April 22, 1954 at the home of Mrs. Alexander Ryburn and formed the Women's Association of the First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach.

At the June meeting it was agreed that we [Women's Association] would have a Kitchen Korner Sale on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Community Building. . . The sale of aprons, etc., which had been made, the Young Adult Class of the Church School sold baked goods, and the Westminster Youth Fellowship sold homemade candy. The total profit was approximately \$698.00.

## Mission



### **Guatemala Mission Trip**

FirstPresVero's Mission Team had a very successful trip to Guatemala. We visited several villages in the Chiquimula area, where we led church services, presented food to the attendees, walked to homes and delivered food while praying with each recipient family. We visited a local school where we led a short service and played with the children. We visited the local hospital, where we provided each patient with a goodie bag and prayer. On our final day, we presented a message and a testimonial to one of the local police stations while providing them breakfast. To show their appreciation, they presented our team with a banner to be displayed in our church.

Following our trip to the police station, we crossed over into Honduras to visit the Mayan Ruins. We came home tired but filled with joy from all the experiences we had on this trip. The Eyes Wide Open ministry team were very supportive and provided great translation for those of us who are not fluent in Spanish.

We're most grateful for the all the support given us by First Presbyterian and the Missions Talent Team. Your support most certainly contributed to our success.

**Cris Gillespie**  
Mission Team



## Men's Fellowship Corner by Phil LoGiudice

**Mike Snyder's Journey as told to me:**

**"grateful to God for my recovery, and my passion and pleasure now are to serve our church in building our new Sanctuary."**



**Mike Snyder agreed recently to tell me about his life and path to Jesus. As some of you know, Mike is the Project Manager for the New Sanctuary. He is working along with a dedicated team of people who are planning and facilitating this complex and challenging effort.**

**Mike was raised in a small town in central Pennsylvania - where Saturday night cow-tipping was socially acceptable behavior. After high school he joined the U.S. Navy. He attended Pennsylvania State University and was awarded a degree in Nuclear Engineering. It was a much better deal than merely earning his degree - because he met his lovely wife, Melissa, at college.**

**Mike and Melissa have wonderful memories of FPV's old sacred structure. They were married by Dr. Mulford in the old Sanctuary in 1988. Both their children were baptized and confirmed in First Presbyterian Church. Both children graduated from the University of North Florida - and Mike and Melissa are proud of both. Mike's son Nick, and his wife Mamie were married by Dr. Tim Womack ten years ago. Lily, Mike and Melissa's only grandchild, was baptized at First Presbyterian Church last Christmas.**

**Mike and Melissa are very active in the youth ministry for the church. Melissa supports Peter's music ministry and Jessie's youth ministry. Melissa works as a radio personality for the local Christian FM station. She graduated from The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.**

**Mike's career spanned thirty-three years at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. His responsibilities included a variety of jobs as a 'doer' and escalated up to running multimillion-dollar projects. He retired six years ago so he and Melissa could do some traveling while they were still young.**

**Mike's life journey so far might seem mostly idyllic, but there have been bumps. Last year he fell off a roof and was hospitalized for three weeks. Just after surgery, while in the trauma unit and unable to walk, Dr. Tim visited and cheerfully told him that he should join the Sanctuary Development Committee when he got out of hospital. Dr. Tim has great faith in Mike, who continues to be a blessing to all of us, in his dedication as project manager for our new Sanctuary, and all the hard work it entails.**

**In Mike's words, he is "grateful to God for my recovery, and my passion and pleasure now are to serve our church in building our new Sanctuary."**



# FPC Youth Music



**Our Pennsylvania tour began on June 15 with a joyful send-off from FPC Vero. After sharing music in worship and presenting our full concert for the first time, 42 students and 10 chaperones boarded a bus to the Orlando airport. Despite multiple flight delays, we arrived in Allentown just after midnight, where we were warmly welcomed by members of First Presbyterian Church of Allentown (PCUSA). It was a long travel day—but the journey had officially begun. -Peter Mahtani**



**On Monday, June 16, we officially hit the road with our driver, Gary—an experienced partner from my past tours in Pittsburgh. Our first stop was Lancaster Bible College, where we enjoyed lunch and a campus tour. We then made a quick visit to Hershey's Chocolate World before heading to Market Square Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Harrisburg. After rehearsing in their stunning sanctuary and sharing a meal prepared by church volunteers, we performed our first official concert of the tour. We returned to Lancaster Bible College to rest and recharge for the days ahead. -Peter Mahtani**



**On the third day of our youth music tour, we enjoyed a much-needed break from performing and had the chance to experience what Central Pennsylvania had to offer. We saw the musical "Noah" at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. From the live animals to the incredible sets and lighting, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to sit in the theater and watch the story of Noah unfold in front of us. Many of us bought stuffed animals—from monkeys to cows, or even red pandas—to help keep the memory alive. Later, we spent six hours exploring the famous Hershey Amusement Park, enjoying the roller coasters, eating classic amusement park food, and visiting the zoo. -Daniel Giannelli**



# FPC Youth Music



Before this trip, I didn't know much about the Amish community, and I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to learn more. We arrived at the Amish Village around 9:30 a.m. and toured an authentic Amish family home—peaceful and simple, with no electricity or modern fixtures, and everything from the stove to the refrigerator running on gas. There were no church buildings; families take turns hosting gatherings in their homes or backyards. The Amish prioritize family closeness, avoiding cars, cell phones, and social media. Their schools, taught by community members, have all grades up to eighth in one classroom, with most learning through hands-on experience. Farming is central to their lifestyle. We also visited a fresh market where we tasted raw honey, fresh fruits, and other sweet treats.

After Amish Country, we enjoyed a buffet that featured everything from chicken nuggets to Thanksgiving dinner. Later, we traveled to State College Presbyterian Church, where we performed and stayed overnight. Following the concert, the church treated us to ice cream from Berkey Creamery, a renowned ice cream shop on the Penn State campus.

-Milka Aristedes (Chaperone)



Thursday, June 19th, marked day five of our youth choir's exciting Pennsylvania tour. Our morning began with a peaceful bus ride from State College to Greensburg, PA. Before arriving at our concert site, students enjoyed lunch from the Pittsburgh-founded restaurant chain, Primanti Bros. The famous sandwich shop did not disappoint—many students were amazed by the bold flavors of selections like the pastrami sandwich. At the end of the meal, the choir sang a "Thank You Song" to the staff who hosted us.

By 2 p.m., we arrived at the Community Church of Harrison City, where we prepared for a special performance alongside several of director Peter Mahtani's alumni. While the alumni rehearsed, FPC students gathered in the lobby for focused practice. Soon, we joined together on stage, blending our voices and formations. Standing packed on the choir risers, it was clear how much the youth choir had grown, and the diverse talent on stage was inspiring.

After enjoying dinner from a delicious Korean food truck, the students performed at 7 p.m. It was a beautiful experience sharing the stage with alumni, and conversations with them revealed a shared passion for music and the choir experience Peter has cultivated. - Kaitlin Simmons

Friday was easily my favorite day of the Pittsburgh trip. We kicked things off with breakfast on the bus heading to Fallingwater, Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic architectural site. As a huge fan of architecture—and Wright being my favorite—I totally freaked out when I found out we were going.



# FPC Youth Music



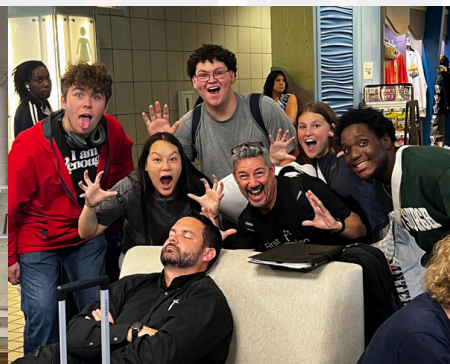
After a mile-long hike, we toured the house, which was just as breathtaking as the landscape around it. Later, we headed back to the hotel to get ready for the baseball game. I've loved baseball since I was little, and even though I'm a Mets fan, singing the national anthem for a crowd of 31,000 was surreal. I cried afterward. The game was a blast too. Friday was full of trip highlights and I hope I remember it forever. -Jacqueline Anding



On Saturday, we got to sleep in before heading to the Monongahela Incline. When it was our group's turn, the view from the top was beautiful—I really enjoyed it. Afterward, we walked to brunch with a great view of the city and, as always, sang our “Thank You Song” to the servers, which seemed to really touch them.

Later, we visited the Strip District before our final full performance. It was special to have two of Peter's mentors with us. The sopranos and altos worked with Catherine, who taught Peter in elementary school, and his college professor shared how impressed he was by our choir. He said we weren't just a typical youth choir—and I agree.

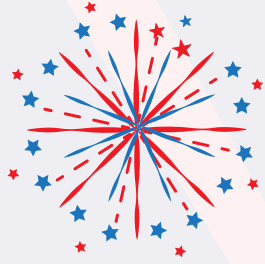
Seeing Peter's mentors in action made me realize how they helped shape him into the leader he is today. Now, he's that same kind of mentor for me. I've worked with him since I was 11, and now at 15, I know I've grown so much thanks to him—on stage and off. Because of Peter, I've made lifelong friends and found confidence in myself, and I'm so thankful he brought us all together on this trip.



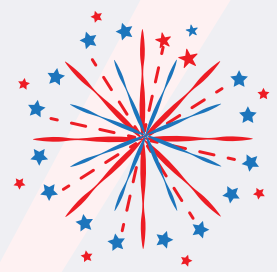
On Sunday morning, we woke up early, packed our things, and loaded the bus for our final performance at Shadyside Presbyterian Church. The building was beautiful, and once we got settled, we rehearsed for the 11 a.m. worship service. After the service, we performed five songs from our concert program, ending the tour with my favorite piece, “Dies Irae.”

Afterward, the church staff invited us downstairs for a meal before we headed to the airport. We said goodbye to our incredible bus driver, Gary, and had time to grab a few final souvenirs. Once we landed in Melbourne, we boarded our last bus back to First Presbyterian. I said goodbye to all my new friends and went home, ending the trip with a full heart. -Sandy Medina





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



1. Jim Armstrong
2. Jill Maroney
3. Savannah Womack
4. Jillian Conway, Oscar Diaz, Cris Gillespie,  
Cathi Hill, Shirley Powell
5. Jane Millar, Helen Nugent
6. Bob Byrket, Sumner Case, Pat Pritchett,  
Cheryl Schregardus
7. Gary Carmichael, Paul Johnson
8. Toni Evanguelidi, Virginia Gowell
9. Joe Farleigh, Anne Fredlock
10. Susan Friesell
12. Betty Geller
13. Jennifer Jones, Ruth Nowlin Thomas,  
Chuck Winslow

16. Linda Kline, Anne Malsbary
18. Chas Coxson, Paul Dingee
19. Ted Miller
20. Dave Lee
21. Arlene Foote
22. Ruth Anderson
23. Kathy Davis, Chris Loftus,
24. Joyce Black
25. Bob Arndt, Anne Burke, Betty Fitzsimmons,  
Jack Knauss, John Scott, Ken Spencer,  
Ansley Whigham
26. Mary Nordstrom
27. Ken Otto
28. Bill Melick, Melissa Snyder, Mona White
29. Sue Coffey, Ann Day, Andrew Gomez,  
Meredith Hager
30. Andrea Armstrong
31. Sahamara Ewing, Katy Reid, Marge Stevens

## What's Goin' On - July at FirstPresVero

Here are some recurring activities, meetings or classes that you might like to attend.  
Everyone is welcome.

Group/Class	Day of the Week	Weekly Meeting?	Monthly meeting?	Time & Place	Chair/Contact details
Men's ** Discussion	Monday	Yes		3:00PM ET Smith	Frank Iodice ( <a href="tel:772-778-3437">772) 778-3437</a>
Book Club	Monday	Yes		5:30PM Earnshaw Room	Rebecca Palmer ( <a href="tel:772-538-0957">772) 538-0957</a>
Men's Fellowship *****Breakfast	Tuesday	Yes		7:30AM McAfee Hall	Glen Conn ( <a href="tel:740-803-3519">740) 803-3519</a>
Bible Study	Tuesday	Yes		10:30AM Schumann	Dr Tim 772-562-9088
Fellowship Dinner***	Wednesday	Yes		5:15PM McAfee Hall	Lisa Jeffra (for reservations)772-
PW Bible Study Grace Circle *			2nd Monday	11:30-12:30	Ann Faunce ( <a href="tel:303-947-7984">303) 947-7984</a> email:
FPV Ladies Who Lunch ****	Friday		3rd Friday	11:30AM Olive Garden	BJ Foster 678-481-3835

\* Resumes October 13th \*\* Resumes September 8th \*\*\* Resumes in September (watch this space)  
\*\*\*\* Resumes September 19th \*\*\*\*\* Resumes in September (watch this space)

# Sunday Worship

July 2025

8:30AM - Mighell Chapel

10AM - McAfee Hall

Childcare available at all services

## July Sermons

**July 6**

**Luke 24:13-25**

**"Making Memories for Life"**

**Rev. Dr. Sam Rutland**

**July 13**

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

**"The One and Only"**

**July 20**

**John 1:1-10**

**"The World's True Lord"**

**July 27**

**John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 8:8-9**

**"The Story About Stories"**

## Church Leadership & Staff

**Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor**

**Jessie Kuehner, Director of Christian Education**

**Dr. Sam Rutland, Theologian in Residence**

**Dr. Holly Adams, Theologian in Residence**

**Dr. Jacob Craig, Director of Music & Arts**

**Peter Mahtani, Associate Director of Music & Arts**

**Ginny Bauer, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Pastors**

**Kimberly Ball, Financial Administrator**

**Lisa Jeffra, Administrative Assistant**

**Anne Adams, Membership Coordinator**

### Elders

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

**Class of 2026** Anne Posey\*, Judy Garrett\*,  
Jim Gambill\*, Ted Miller

**Class of 2027** Ann Faunce, Bill King\*,  
Jonathan Miller, Phil Schwin

Clerk of Session - Dr. Lucille Craig

Board of Trustees President - Lisa Barnes

Treasurer - Scott Westermann

### Board of Deacons

**Moderator** - Gayle Bruce

**Class of 2025** Donna Blankenship, Gayle Bruce,  
Nancy Bucklew, Cindy Judd, Bill Menzies,  
Frank Smith

**Class of 2026** Ginger Allen, Suzanne Breese,  
Connie Derman, Carol Rhodes, Lee Tiebout,  
Ashley Wright

**Class of 2027** B J Fisher, Susan Gordon,  
Eileen Ganser, Frank Iodice, Pat Stella,  
Ruth Thomas

(\*indicates Trustee)