



FIRST NEWS

Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ

FIRST PRIORITY: The Extraordinary is Our Standard!

There are always years that are more influential. As each one of us looks back in our lives, we can find years that have been the most life-changing and influential in our growth and development. Maybe it was the formation of identity in our teens. Maybe it was when we committed to a school or to go into the military or to start our own business. Possibly it was when we experienced the power and wonder of being parents. It could've been during our working years or in reframing our lives as we entered retirement.

The next five years at First Presbyterian Church will be exactly like those years we have experienced in our own lives. First Presbyterian Church has arrived at the precipice of a new dawn. I do not write this as hyperbole or exaggeration. The next five years we will shape the trajectory of our congregation to the next century.

I am asking the congregation to prayerfully and faithfully consider your generosity to the church. I am asking something of our congregation that I have never asked before. I am asking each member and friend to reconsider how they give generously in their philanthropy and stewardship. I am asking that you consider focusing your giving, for the next five years, toward the strength and empowerment of First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach.

Like many of you, I give to a whole variety of groups and organizations that do amazing work. I give to children's homes, hospitals, to my alma mater, and to a variety of other special organizations. While all of these remain dear to my heart, for the good of our community, and for the good of the world, I am going to focus my giving, in total, to First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach.

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During the next five years, through my financial commitment, it is my hope and prayer that our church will be strengthened, empowered, and enriched. In the next five years FPCVB can become a flagship church within the Presbyterian Church USA in mission, vision and ministry.

I realize that this is a big ask. I make this ask to focus our giving for this particular period of time because such giving will yield a great harvest! We have so much to accomplish. We have so much to do. We have so many lives that can be blessed by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in a healthy and faithful manner.

If we, as a church, are to thrive in the next five years, we need to have strong annual stewardship to do the ministry that God has called us to do. We need to face the reality of development needs. As Bonhoeffer said of the church, "We need the extraordinary to be our standard."

Please prayerfully discern both your giving for the 2024 Annual Generosity Campaign and your generous commitment for the next five years.

May God bless our congregation and the opportunities before us.

Sincerely,

Tim Womack



SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS



A seminar for those who are experiencing unwanted loss. The holiday season can be difficult when someone is grieving.

Presented by Susan Long, RN, LCSW and the Rev. Holly Adams

**Tuesday, Nov. 14th 1-4 pm
in the E T Smith Lounge
For reservations call Lisa
at the office 562-9088,
ext. 122**

Free for
public

FPC CAR SHOW

Timeless Beauty: Celebrating the Elegance of Classic Cars



NOVEMBER

4

10:00AM

FOOD

GAMES FOR KIDS

MUSIC

520 Royal Palm Blvd, Vero Beach 32960

A Merry Little **VARIETY SHOW**

Performances

Dec 8 and 9, 7:00pm

McAfee Hall

Proceeds to benefit the Indian River
County Food Pantry.

NEXT OPEN MIC NIGHT

TUESDAY NOV 14

7:00PM

MCAFFEE HALL

Dick Schroeder – Presbyterian Man

By Phil LoGiudice

(with some facts borrowed from Stanford Erickson)



Dick (Richard) and Tootsie (Helen) Schroeder joined our church on February 2, 2002. Stanford Erickson previously wrote about Dick and his philosophy for balancing marriage, spiritual needs, and a demanding business career. I decided that since several years have gone by, many members may not have read that early article. So here is my take on the life of Dick Schroeder.

Dick's career was focused on quality assurance. He worked for Avon in a technical capacity as a chemist before moving over to the pharmaceutical giant, Johnson and Johnson. He served the latter in the capacity of chemist, and that led to managing a quality assurance program in the pharmaceutical department at Johnson and Johnson. Like a juggler he managed his demanding career, his happy marriage, and eventually followed the path to Presbyterianism. Like many members of our church, Dick was born into the Catholic religion, but joined the Lutheran church after marrying Tootsie.

When asked how he could possibly manage these demanding aspects of his life he responded with three things that influenced him. Dick said the experiences he believes shaped his ability to balance his life are as follows:

One, His father Alphonse was abandoned as a baby when he was left on the doorstep of a bar in Jersey City, New Jersey. Despite that traumatic experience, his father successfully overcame the scary early beginnings of his young life. Dick felt that if his father could overcome the brutal trauma in his life, then he could certainly do the same in his own life.

Two, he was very short and at the time he graduated grammar school, he was the smallest boy in his class. The only person smaller was a girl in his class! By the time he graduated high school he had grown several inches and eventually reached six feet in height. He learned from that height challenge to keep his ego in check and to be more empathetic towards others.

Three, Dick was inspired by his marriage to Tootsie. They met in a bowling alley in 1961 as Tootsie reported, although Dick remembers a slightly different story. They have reached a rare point in their marriage! Sixty years together.

As I have already noted, he was raised Catholic and Tootsie was raised Lutheran. Tootsie's influence led them to the Presbyterian Church. This was a relatively easy choice based on Dick's early understanding that the Catholic Church which emphasized guilt in its teachings. Tootsie helped him understand that the love of God for each of us is a great gift and guilt should not be a factor in our beliefs.

Dick has been a frequent diner at our Presbyterian Men's weekly breakfasts. This has been a very enjoyable time for many of us. We frequently have guest speakers who share very interesting information about the needs of our community and how help can be provided. Our breakfast meetings are open to all the men in our community. We get together every Tuesday morning at 7:30 am in the E.T. Smith lounge.

Shop with a cop & the Bicycle Project



The Justice and Honor team is sponsoring “Shop with a Cop” and the Bicycle Project again this fall.

Shop with a Cop is put on by the Indian River County Sheriff's Department each year to assist needy children identified in the IRC schools who are given a \$50 gift card for Christmas. They are then taken by a uniformed officer to shop, usually at Target or Walmart, for Christmas.

The Crossover Mission is sponsoring the Bicycle Project this year, and again, law enforcement officers help distribute bicycles and helmets to needy children for Christmas. These two activities go a long way towards forging positive relationships between our beloved, law-enforcement community and citizens in underserved parts of Indian River County.

In the past, our congregation has been wonderfully supportive of these two projects. If you would like to donate, you may make your check out to First Presbyterian Church, and in the byline write “Bicycle project “ or “Shop with a Cop”. Please submit checks to the church office by December 10. The donations will be collected by the Justice and Honor Team and presented to the IRCSD and Crossover Mission in early December.

Thank you! We are indeed “blessed to be a blessing”!

Mimi Rutland/Chairperson
Justice and Honor Team



Symposium for the Indian River Cares Organization Sponsored by **JUSTICE AND HONOR TEAM AT FPC**



It was our pleasure to do so as this gathering of many nonprofits in the area, including faith based organizations as well as civic organizations, who are working for the betterment of the citizens in Indian River County. The event took place on September the 29th, Friday, from 8:30 to 11:30 AM and it was met with great success. Carol Campbell was our kitchen angel, and Butch Almberg was our technical maestro. Roger and Mark did a great job setting up McAfee Hall.

A Word from our Music Director, Dr. Jacob Craig

The Western Latin Tradition



As the early church began to form, "Latin replaced Greek as the language of worship in Rome" (Westermeyer, 1998, p. 93), and developed through the Latin "rites" into what we understand as chant. Chant developed into hymns (Augustine's definition states "a song in praise of God") (Wilson-Dickson, 1992, p. 35), and along with it a rich sense of congregational singing. This allowed participants "to seek comfort and spiritual strength in the practice of singing...by which the faithful fervently united with heart and voice" (Wilson-Dickson, 1992, p. 35). The foundations of Gregorian chant allowed for the heightened speech of cantillation and the composition of songs set to scripture or sacred poetry (Wilson-Dickson, 1992, p. 42), which in turn allowed for a liturgical elaboration in the Mass and its vigils. As this tradition developed over time, the fusion of Roman and Frankish elements around 800 started a complexity in song that began to demand trained singers (a choir), and began to exclude the congregation (Westermeyer, 1998, p. 106). This exclusion resulted in a traditional devaluation of congregational song altogether, and determined that the congregational parts of the Mass now went to the choirs. While the congregation did not completely stop singing, it did create a tension over time moving from the first several centuries of "the people's song" (Westermeyer, 1998, p. 109) towards musical art in the form of professional choirs from the fourth or fifth centuries. Nearing the Renaissance the congregation lost its entire "musical office in worship" (Westermeyer, 1998, p. 110).

As music progressed from chant to organum to Renaissance polyphony (all utilizing the professional choir), music itself began to be distanced more and more from the people, denying participation from any peasants or common folk (Westermeyer, 1998, p. 119). Though singing from the congregation still continued throughout their own "song of the people", and though they sang about worship, there developed in the Western Latin tradition for many centuries a restriction of congregational participation in liturgy.

The dichotomy of this concept still exists today. Is it more important to develop congregational singing from an educational perspective (i.e. teaching hymns and proper singing technique, sight reading, hymn choirs, etc.) or is it more important to focus on the choirs and orchestras to develop as professional a sound as possible (i.e. paid ringers and section leaders, continuous rehearsal, major works, etc.)? Westermeyer states "a critical aspect of musical health in the church has to do with holding these tendencies in an incarnational tension so that they feed and discipline one another rather than dissipate into separate pieces" (Westermeyer, 1998, p. 109). There is a tendency for music directors to perform as much beautiful and excellent music as possible, expelling a great deal of energy on the highest ranking ensembles and musicians. While this is important, it would stand to reason that we are to educate and promote excellence throughout our entire congregation. The congregation as a whole might very well be moved by an incredible performance by the choir, so too the choir may be moved by an incredibly performed congregational hymn. There is great satisfaction in achieving musical art, perhaps there is an equal amount of satisfaction in the reminder that we are a community, and that being a community of excellence together will allow for all of our talents to be sharpened, and our efforts to be maximized.

References

Westermeyer, P. (1998). *Te Deum: The Church and Music*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

Wilson-Dickson, A. (1992). *The Story of Christian Music*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

Happy Birthday!

1. Ernie Schaaf, Mark Bobseine
2. Judith Taylor
3. Sara Ann Edgar, Gayel Holt
4. Sally Marquardt, Ann Faunce, Vi Spencer, Susan Lizotte.
5. Lynsey Thompson, Mimi Rutland
7. Anita Pew, Emily Zeigler
8. Jill Lawrence, Lois Getz
9. Gayle Bruce
10. Darrell Brock
11. James Larkin, Nanette Rappa
12. Betty Judd
13. Grant Yukins
15. Jo Ann Wheeler, George Potochney, Mack Singleton, Elaine Brock
16. Tony Gross, George Maroney
18. Joe Smith, Paul Stynchcomb, Gloria Burnam, Dennis Croyle
19. Isa Ponce-Jimenez
20. Hilary Dobson, Samantha Ekin, Cathy Sullivan
21. Patricia Harvin, Michele Wagner, Laurie Hawley, Lucia Romero
22. Rebekah Crews
23. Susie Nystrom, Landon Craig
24. Marilyn Brooks, Ashley Wright
25. Hanson Peirce, Gayle Peters
26. Austin Chilberg, B.J. Fisher, Nancy Bucklew
27. Bob Barber
28. Doris Roberts
30. Jack Wagner

Save The Date

The 31st Annual Soup Bowl

November 2nd
2023

11:30AM-1:30PM

Benefiting
Catholic Charities'
Samaritan Center



For information contact:
Renee Bireley: 772-770-3039
rbireley@ccdpb.org

in McAfee Hall



Our own chefs (aka those who love to cook) will provide several of their favorite soups along with bread and a beverage and a small dessert.

There will be a \$5 donation and \$15 for a quart of take away soup.

We have partnered with Indian River Clay and the Heritage Center and will have a one-day pottery buying event that will happen on Soup Bowl Day, Thursday, November 2rd from 9am-7pm at the Heritage Center... It is a great opportunity to see 1000's of the most beautiful bowls in one location.

THANKSGIVING HOPE BASKETS



Please use our church's labeled blue bags and purchase the food items listed inside the bags and return to the church sanctuary on any Sunday by November 12th, or the church office during the week. Please be as complete as possible. Food items will not be sorted and No other food items will be added to the bag. What you place in the bag is what the family will receive. A \$25 gift card to Publix from the Mission Team will be attached for families to purchase their choice of a ham or turkey. Multiple bags will be given to larger families.

**MAY YOUR GENEROSITY BE A BLESSING TO YOU
AND TO THE NEIGHBORS YOU HELP.**



Mission



This year's Angel Tree is a response to the needs of children from the Children's Home Society, the elderly from the Senior Resource Association, and women from Naomi House all here in Vero Beach as well as scholarship gifts for our First Presbyterian Preschool to help provide opportunities for every child in need. Checks for the preschool may be made to First Presbyterian Church (memo Preschool).

- 1. Take an Angel from the tree starting November 26.**
- 2. Wrap and return your gift(s) with the angel attached no later than Sunday December 3.**
- 3. Drop off boxes will be available in the sanctuary on Sundays and in the church office during the week.**
- 4. Please be certain that the angel is attached to the gift(s)**

May you be a blessing to these friends in need and may you be blessed with your giving.



Your Mission Team

Fellowship

Wednesday Night Dinners

Sign up with QR Codes or by calling
Lisa in the Church Office



November 1

Salad Bar
Lasagna
Garlic Bread
Brownies and Ice Cream



November 8

Hungarian Night

Salad Bar
Cabbage Roll Casserole
Cheesy Cauliflower Bake
Hungarian Shortbread



November 15

Salad Bar
Southwest Chili and Fixings
Chicken Enchilada Soup
Rolls and Butter
Eclair Cake

Christmas Tree Lane Donations

Unique Boutique – We are accepting new and gently used items for our Unique Boutique. Whether you're redecorating or cleaning out closets, please think of Presbyterian Women!

We are accepting donations* through November 20th:

Every Monday 9am-11am

Every Thursday 1pm-3pm

All donations will be accepted at the side entrance door (on the west side of the building) to McAfee Hall in the Center for Christian Life.

***We cannot accept clothing, shoes, electronics, or large furniture.**

Please do not drop items off in the church office.

For additional information contact Rosalie Perry: (610) 780-3111.

Get Ready, to BAKE! FPC is blessed to have such creative bakers and cooks! Cookies-by-the-pound and Mrs. Claus's Pantry are one of the most popular areas at Christmas Tree Lane! Once again, we need your favorite Christmas cookies, delivered in disposable containers and labeled with the name of the cookie. For Mrs. Claus's Pantry, any specialties EXCEPT cookies: pies, cakes, cupcakes, breads, brownies, homemade pickles, relishes, jams, candy, etc. must be ready to travel. Please: Nothing that needs to be refrigerated and make a note if your goodies contain nuts. All baked goods may be dropped off, unbagged, in ET Smith Lounge on Thursday, November 30th from 9am-Noon and on Friday, December 1st from 9am-10:30am. As you pull around the handicapped parking circle members of the Committees will unload them directly from your car and will package and price them for sale. For more information, contact Cookie Chair Barb Schwin, pschwin38@aol.com or Mrs. Claus' Pantry Chair, Beth Pritchett, ekpritchett@aol.com.

Gift Card/Certificate Gift Tree donations: We will be raffling a gift card tree. If you have unused gift cards, own a business, and have a gift card to donate or have a gift certificate from your favorite hairstylist, restaurant, etc., please drop them off at the Church office or you can give them to a committee volunteer outside the sanctuary following the 9:30am service. If you have any questions, please call Joanne Smith at 614-205-8783.

Join the fun!!! If you would like to volunteer to help with Christmas Tree Lane, we would love to have you. There are openings before the event as well as day of, something for everyone.

For more information, please contact Carol Freeman at 910-448-0771.

Many thanks for your generous support!



Upcoming PW Events

November 6

The next PW meeting is on November 6 at 1:00 in the Earnshaw room. This is the last meeting before the 69th Christmas Tree Lane on December 2nd; we will be discussing details, deadlines, and asking for bakers and volunteers. This event is the major fund-raiser which supports many non-profit organizations but is also a special opportunity to spend time with your fellow Presbyterian Women. In spite of much hard work, we always have fun!

November 13

Our first Grace Circle meeting will be Monday, Nov. 13th from 11:30-12:30 in the Earnshaw Room. We will discuss Chapter One, Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter and watch the author's video. Following our discussion we will enjoy lunch and learn about each other. All ladies are welcome! Please call Ann Faunce @ 303-947-7984 if you have questions. The Guides are \$10 and are located in the office.

November 17

Next Olive Garden lunch is November 17th at 11:30. Please make a reservation with B J at 678-481-3835.

December 16

Mark your calendars! December 16th is our annual Christmas Luncheon! More information following in the coming weeks!

JOIN US FOR THE 69TH ANNUAL

**SATURDAY, DEC. 2, 2023
9 AM TO 2 PM**

CHRISTMAS TREE LANE

Home made Cookies by-the-Pound
Mrs. Claus's Pantry (everything BUT cookies)
Handmade Treasures
Artisan's Gallery
Unique Boutique



Bargain prices on kitchenware,
decor items, linens, wall art,
jewelry, games, sports, books,
and small furniture - even a
handyman's corner!

FPC Youth Jazz Combo: 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

*** CASH OR CHECKS PREFERRED
PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S
LOCAL MISSION PROJECTS**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
520 ROYAL PALM BOULEVARD, VERO BEACH, FL 32960
772-562-9088 / WWW.FIRSTPRESVERO.ORG

Sunday Worship

November 2023

8:30AM - Mighell Chapel

9:30AM - Sanctuary

11AM - Sanctuary

Childcare available at all services

November Sermons

November 5

Matthew 23:1-12

"The Place of Honor"

Communion Sunday

November 12

Matthew 25:14-30

"Planning Ahead"

November 19

Matthew 25:1-13

"Invest or Dig A Hole"

November 23

10AM - Sanctuary

Colossians 3: 12-17

"Whatever you do..."
Happy Thanksgiving!

November 26

Matthew 25:31-46

"The G.O.A.T."

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

Jessica Russell, Director of Christian Education

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 Rebecca Palmer,

*Pat Pritchett, *Brad Smith, John Toohey

Class of 2025 Carol Campbell, *Carol Marks,

Susie Nystrom, Bob Satola

Clerk of Session - Dr. Lucille Craig

Treasurer - Scott Westermann

Director of Development - Allan Bixby

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 LoGiudice, Beth Pritchett, Bonnie Nolan

Class of 2025 Donna Blankenship, Gayle Bruce,

Nancy Bucklew, Cindy Judd, Bill Menzies,

Frank Smith