



FIRST NEWS

Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ

In 2023, I had Rotator Cuff Surgery. Like many of you, I was out of commission because of a surgery. Six months without golf (and that was a quick recovery). So, instead of playing golf, I watched golf. I watched the PGA Tour and the amazing skills of the professionals. I watched YouTube videos on chipping (no improvement). I watched teaching professionals to learn how to swing without reinjuring myself.

One of the pros has a regular spot on the golf channel and his name is Martin Hall. He is of English descent and is an excellent teacher. He always ends his teaching sessions with this statement:

If you keep doing what you've been doing, you'll keep getting what you've been getting. Make the effort, make the change, it's worth it!

This is a great statement for golf, and it is a great statement for us to hold onto in 2024. Less for golf but more for life.

I would claim that all of us want deeper and more abiding walks with God. Whether we realize it or not, we want what the old gospel hymn proclaims, "A Closer Walk with Thee." How do we get closer with God? Well . . . , "do not keep doing what you've been doing, or you'll keep getting what you are getting." Like in golf for most of us, we have done many things well. Yet, there is work to be done. In our spiritual life, we have done many things very well, yet there are things to work on. I, of course, do not know what that is for you.

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2024

First
Presbyterian



January 2024



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

- Maybe it is being a regular attendee at worship and pondering the mystery of God and the deep thoughts of faith.
- Maybe it is a dedicated time of personal prayer and meditation and “walking” with God.
- Maybe it is less focus on the self and more focus on others.
- Maybe it is lifting our frustrations and anger to God and allowing them to dissipate.
- Maybe it is learning more about the history, wisdom, and presence of God.
- Maybe it is learning to swallow our pride in search for harmony and peace.

As with a golf lesson, there are tools to help with our bad form. We need to put the effort in, try and learn some new ways to grow in our walk with God. If we find ourselves in the same patterns of life that are not desirable or helpful let's not keep doing what we've been doing and getting the same lacking results. Let's use the “faith” tools at our disposal and “Make the effort, make the change, and realize it's worth it.”

Let's put the “effort” in for 2024. We truly have nothing to lose. As the shoe ad said years ago, “Let's do it!”

Have a blessed and joyous and faith filled 2024! Happy New Year!

Tim Womack

Dear Congregation,

The family of Ve Nguyen and her five children would like to express their thanks and gratitude to the 1975 Congregation of Vero Beach First Presbyterian Church for sponsoring our family to come to the United States from Vietnam.

We would especially like to thank Dr. Fred McClellan and Pastor Byrd Sadler and their wives, as well as the Church Elders, for their kindness and support.

Please accept this letter of thanks on behalf of Ve Nguyen's five children and their families.

Yen Ngoe Thi Huynh ~ for
Yen Eng & Family
Thu Inh Huynh Huang Huynh & Family
Dung Anh Van Huynh & Family
Oanh Ngoc Thi Huynh & Family
Huan Anh Van Huynh “Alex” & Family

“In loving memory of Ve Nguyen”

Open Mic

at First Pres Vero

Jan 9 7:00pm
McAfee Hall

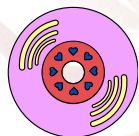


Open Admission!

To Perform

Call (772) 562-9088

Or Scan the Code



FPC YOUTH

★ JANUARY

EVENTS

Dec 31 - NYE Volleyball 11am - 1pm

Jan 7 - Small Group @ 9:30am

Jan 7 - Gaga Ball Tournament @ 5pm

Jan 14 - Youth Service @ 9:30am

Jan 14 - Karaoke Showcase @ 5pm

Jan 21 - Small Group @ 9:30am

Jan 21 - Cook-out @ 5pm

Jan 26 - 27 - Rock the Universe

First Presbyterian Church

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

520 ROYAL PALM BLVD. VERO BEACH, FL 772 562 9088



Gainesville Brass Quintet

Sunday
January 7, 2024
4PM



Astralis Chamber Ensemble

Sunday
January 28, 2024
4PM



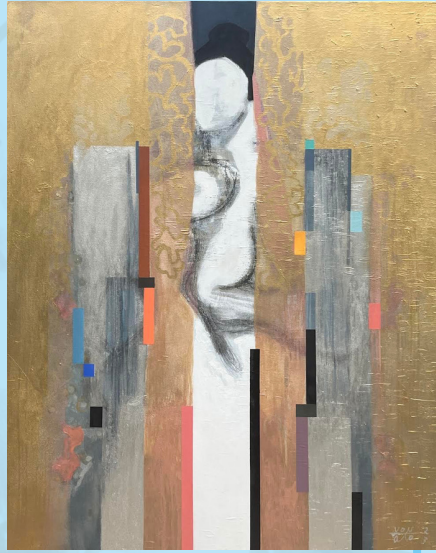
Con Brio String Quartet

Sunday
February 11, 2024
4PM

Worship

Galleries at First Pres

The Galleries at First Pres began in January of 2017 and was founded by Dr. Jacob Craig, with Peter and Carole Coe as curators. Their mission is to feature a wide variety of works by local artists, on rotation quarterly throughout the year. The Galleries are located throughout the campus of First Presbyterian Church. They are open for viewing during normal office hours, Monday through Thursday. Guided tours can be made available on request. Admission is free and open to the community.



"Solitude"



Maciek Von Ato



"One Thousand Lines"



Evelyna Helmer



Opening Reception:

**Sunday,
January 28**

1:00-3:00pm



"Perseverance"



Bertelle Brooking

Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Memberships

Jo Ann Wheeler, Maggie Fleming, and Susan McGarry were introduced at the PW October Meeting as the new recipients of this national honor given to those who are recognized for their commitment to Christ, the mission of the Church, and their faithful service.

Jo Ann has served as an Elder of First Presbyterian Church. She has followed our Lord's commandment to honor and love the abandoned children of the world. She has served at an orphanage in South Africa as well as Kenya where she worked to feed and clothe the children there. She traveled to Ukraine where she shared God's love for the children and to their mothers in that war torn country. Jo has been the backbone of our Christmas Tree Lane Unique Boutique for many years. We are thankful and grateful for her service to our God



Maggie joined our Church in 2016 and immediately became an active Presbyterian Woman. She has been a reader at Dodgertown Elementary School, served as a Deacon, worked to beautify the courtyard, and regularly attends Tim's Bible Study. Her biggest contribution had been to PW where she served as Treasurer for 4 years and Co-Chaired Christmas Tree Lane for 7 years. Maggie single handedly organized our first luncheon after COVID. She can make McAfee Hall look like a beautiful room in a first class facility! We are very appreciative for all that Maggie has done for our Church and our Lord.

Susan McGarry exemplifies the Parable of the Talents. She comes to every PW event and is a loyal Grace Circle attendee. She has helped at Christmas Tree Lane every year placing signs on poles all over Vero Beach and worked tirelessly on the Cookie Committee. She has been part of our Church's Small Groups Ministry, Membership Committee, Evangelism Committee, and the PW Nominating Committee. She is an encourager and always has a smile on her face.. The PW honors Susan for her loyal commitment to the FPC and Presbyterian Women.



Allan Bixby a Recipient of the PW Honorary Life Membership

On November 19th Allan Bixby was presented an Honorary Life Membership by the Presbyterian Women, an award not often given to many men. He and his wife Barbara, who also served as Moderator of PW, joined our Church in 1996. That same year Allan became Treasurer of FPC, a position he held for 20 years. In addition, he has been an Elder and a Trustee. He also was greatly involved in helping our Church after the Hurricane of 2004 and in the building of our Christian Life Center. In the community Allan worked with Habitat for Humanity coordinating the purchase of its property on US 1 and chairing the building committee for it. Presbyterian Women proudly thanks Allan for his service to our Lord, our church and Community.



Presbyterian Women

Thank you!

**Our 69th Annual Christmas Tree Lane raised a record
\$18,332.92!**

Whether you donated an item or baked a cookie or two, our event was a success, in part for all each of you do. It takes our entire congregation to make Christmas Tree Lane a success and we hope all of you know that we feel truly blessed.

-The Presbyterian Women

Happy New Year! The next PW meeting will be held on January 8, at 1:00, in the Earnshaw room. This will be the installation of the incoming officers; please join to offer our friendship and support to the new Board.

Presbyterian Men

The Men's Fellowship Corner

Some aspects of Stanford Erickson's life as told to Phil LoGiudice

Stanford's warm personality and listening skills were readily apparent when we first met. We have shared great memories of the 1950's in San Francisco. Both of us enjoyed Herb Caan's columns in the Chronicle. We loved the hot dogs at Woolworth's. Later I learned that he was a published author of several books. Additionally, he and Jane Weise edited, *The Psalms from a Christian Perspective*, written by Rev. Dr. George L. Earnshaw.

When Stanford decided he would try his hand at writing non-fiction books, he made sure he honored God with the first one. It took a couple of years of research and two years of writing. *How to Be Wiser Than King Solomon* was published in 2011.

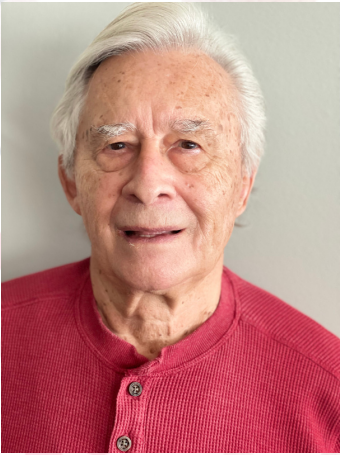
Stanford has always been interested in wisdom and what constituted wisdom, and who could be considered wise. He said, "I had never understood why the poem Ecclesiastes, attributed to King Solomon in the Old Testament, was considered wise. I thought Ecclesiastes was Solomon's attempt to justify a life gone awry. It illustrates how knowledgeable, shrewd, and somewhat Machiavellian the writer was. Wise, yes, but wise in how to get along in the world, wise in things of the spirit, not so much."

About ten years earlier, Stanford had written a poem titled *Ecclesiastes: A Modern Sequel* that rebuts King Solomon's epic poem chapter by chapter. Few people have read the original poem, so Stanford included it in his book *How to be Wiser Than King Solomon*, which not only is a biography of King Solomon but points out that Solomon's disregard for commands and laws established by God ended up tearing apart the kingdom of the 12 Hebrew tribes.

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Presbyterian Men

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Stanford says he really did not accept Jesus as his savior until he was 33 years old, and he accepted Him as his Lord about three years later. Once that happened, by the grace of God, he was determined to put Jesus first and his worldly career a distant last and he has had quite an amazing worldly career.

After graduating from University of California at Berkeley, Stanford was hired to be a feature writer for the San Francisco Examiner. He later wrote features for the San Francisco Chronicle, while obtaining a Masters in English from San Francisco State University. Then the Army called, and he spent 15 months in the Republic of Korea working as a reporter for Stars & Stripes.

During the next ten years, he worked as a reporter, managing editor, columnist, editor and bureau chief for McGraw-Hill Publications in San Francisco, Chicago, New York City and Washington, D.C. He covered Congress, several U.S. Presidents and other world leaders. McGraw-Hill sent him to Columbia University to obtain a master's degree in business.

Later he was a speech writer in Washington, DC, headed up public relations worldwide for Sea-Land Service, the largest containership company in the world, was recruited to be editor-in-chief and then general manager of Knight-Ridder's Journal of Commerce in New York City, bought and managed publications for The Economist Magazine Group, bought Farm Journal with some investors for himself, and for ten years has been a consultant turning around distressed media companies.

Stanford explained, "What has been odd about my worldly career is that after I put God first, my career really took off and I obtained jobs that really transcended my abilities, which forced me to depend on God's grace even more. Putting God first also taught me to put my family and others before my career. Looking back, nothing I have accomplished in my career has been as rewarding as having loving wives and loving children." Both of his sons are graduates of Wheaton College, strong in their Christian faith, and are lawyers.

His first wife of 36 years died of ovarian cancer. "When we discovered her cancer, I quit my job and primarily took care of her for three years before she died. It was the best thing I ever did since she had made so many sacrifices for me as we moved from place to place." He never thought he would marry again until he met Nancy a couple of years later.

Stanford has always had a heart for the Jewish people. "Jewish people have always taken care of me for some reason. I always wanted to write something that might be useful to them. Nancy is Jewish. Somehow, I felt that God brought her into my life not only to heal a saddened heart but to help me better understand the heritage and traditions of the Hebrew people. We were married by a Rabbi and in our Ketubah, in which we write our vows to one another, we pledged to respect each other's religion."

Stanford joined First Presbyterian Church fifteen years ago. He sang in the choir for thirteen years, served as an elder, and is a member of the Men's Fellowship Group.

Writing is in his DNA. His book *Mama's Boy Presidents: Why Do We Keep Electing Them* was published in 2012. He edited three books on the Holocaust, and with Jane Weise edited Rev. Dr. George Earnshaw's commentary on the 150 Psalms titled *The Psalms from a Christian Perspective*. In 2014 he published *The Kind of Women Who Could Be President of the United States*. In 2018 he published *Ranking U.S. Presidents from Washington to Trump*. In 2020 he co-authored a novel with Richard Kerr, former Deputy Director of the CIA, titled *The Door*. At the end of this year Kerr and he will publish another novel titled *Murder for Dummies*. Next year he will publish a book of poetry titled *Becoming Me* and a nonfiction book titled *The American Ship Company that Changed Trade Worldwide*. A play he wrote, *The Kennedys—An American Tragedy*, is being considered for a Off Broadway production in New York City.

Wednesday Night Dinners

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

January 10

Salad Bar
Chicken & Dumpling casserole
Cracker barrel green beans

Dessert



January 17

Asian Themed night

Salad Bar
Beef and broccoli
Fried Rice
Spring Rolls

Sponge cake with strawberries



January 24

Breakfast for dinner
Sausage Gravy and Biscuits
Hash-brown casserole

Scrambled egg bake
Fresh fruit



January 31

Salad bar
Sloppy joes
Macaroni and cheese
Glazed carrots
Dessert



Second Annual Art & Music in the Park

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 2:00PM TO 5:00PM

LUNCH WILL BE CATERED BY 14 BONES BBQ

TICKETS: \$12.00 PER PERSON. \$30.00 FOR FAMILIES OF 3+

GIFFORD HISTORICAL MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

2880 45TH STREET, GIFFORD, FL

THE JUSTICE AND HONOR COMMITTEE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS PARTNERING WITH THE GIFFORD HISTORICAL MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER TO SPONSOR THIS EVENT. ART FROM HIGHWAYMEN ARTISTS, AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHER ARTISTS WILL BE ON DISPLAY TO ENJOY WHILE LISTENING TO GREAT MUSIC AND ENJOYING DELICIOUS FOOD! TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE BETWEEN SERVICES BEGINNING THE FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY. PROCEEDS FROM TICKET SALES GO TO BENEFIT THE GHMCC.



SHOP WITH A COP/BICYCLE PROJECT 2023

The Justice and Honor team sought support for this project that gives new bikes to children identified as having need through the IRC schools. Saturday morning—two days before Christmas—there were about 60 new bikes lined up at Crossover Mission to give to kids in Indian River County who would not otherwise have a bike. Santa was there to do the honors and lots of happy kids left with new bikes and helmets. Those of us watching the festivities had the privilege of feeling and seeing the Christmas spirit in action. Thanks to your generosity, FPC raised nearly \$10,000 for this effort as well as the shop with a cop project.



Happy Birthday!

- 3. Douglas Case
- 4. Terry Long
- 5. Todd Dingee, Deborah Winkler
- 8. John Schumann Jr.
- 9. Ana Gatzke
- 10. Reita Byrket
- 14. Jillian Barley, Blanca Capute
- 15. Lily Gunter
- 16. Margaret Fleming,
- 18. Jan Mooney, Lisa Potochney, Liz Smith
- 19. Elizabeth Thomas, Grace Wagner
- 20. Angelina Diaz, Barbara Higgins, Rob Nelson, Jimmy Peirce
- 21. Anne Adams
- 22. Sue Broadhurst, Avery Gabbard, Eileen Kennedy
- 23. Tiffany Frazier, Makala Peirce
- 24. Raleighine Hoppe, Barb Miller, Sheila Stella
- 25. Jan Johnson, Ann Lewis, Rosalie Perry
- 26. Bill Blankenship
- 27. Rosalia Allen, Phil LoGiudice
- 28. Carol Freeman, Merritt Shine
- 29. Carole Coe, Bill Fish
- 31. Sandy Samson



Sunday Worship

January 2024

8:30AM - Mighell Chapel

9:30AM - Sanctuary

11AM - Sanctuary

Childcare available at all services

January Sermons

January 7

Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11

The Baptism of the Lord:

"What is Baptism?"

Communion Sunday

January 14

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Ordination Sunday:

"Your Servant is Listening"

January 21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

"Rulings,
Repeating,
Repenting"

January 28

Mark 1:21-28

"The Power of
Righteous Teaching"

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 2024 Rebecca Palmer,

*Pat Pritchett, *Brad Smith, John Toohey

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

Class of 2026 Louise Feroe, Judy Garrett,
Jim Gambill, Ted Miller

Clerk of Session - Dr. Lucille Craig

Treasurer - Scott Westermann

Director of Development - Allan Bixby

Board of Deacons

Class of 2024 John Barley, Raleighine Hoppe,
Holly LoGiudice, Bonnie Nolan, Robin Perry,
Beth Pritchett

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

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