

what we **BELIEVE**

FIRST PRESS **FEBRUARY 2019**

YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

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Well...who is it going to be? Pats or the Rams? My money (figurative) is on Tom Brady to win...again...ok, now that THAT is out of the way...

I've had a deep time of reflection lately surrounding the doxology. Like you, I'll admit that it's easy to lull through the doxology on Sundays...just sing the words of this song because I'm supposed to. For me, it had become rote. Well, a few weeks back, I closed my eyes tightly for no reason at all and started reflecting on all the goodness around me. The opening line has been reverberating in my heart and mind ever since, and now I want to share that with you:

We have a lot of blessings going on. I'm not going to sit here and pretend like there haven't been a share of speedbumps along the way, but when we sift through all of that, we can more clearly see the blessings of God.



The new building...whatever it is...whatever it becomes...is going to be a huge blessing for our ministries and missions! Our budget...and the capital campaign...the sheer generosity of our congregation...is a huge blessing! Our ministries...our volunteers...our elected leaders...our staff...what a blessing to be on the same team working for the same goals.

Continued on page 2

I don't know what it is...but I'm convicted by the Spirit that I vocalize my complaints more often than I count my blessings! We have so much to be thankful for...but we need to make sure we are constantly realizing how blessed we are! As we move into the bright future of First Pres, let's make it a habit to PRAISE GOD...FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

In Christ,

Dino

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT, GRACE LANE!

For nearly 28 years, our church members and our finances have been served by one of the most amazing human beings we have ever had the pleasure of working with! While Grace has been contemplating retirement for some time, she made it known to us at the end of the year that she would enter retirement for good in 2019.



This is a major transition for our church – but more than that, it's a major celebration for Grace, who has worked so hard and given her all in service to the Lord! After spending a lot of time in prayer, she has come to this very special moment in her life – a period that will be spent traveling, visiting family, and continuing to serve the Lord in new, exciting ways. The Personnel and Finance Ministry Teams are already working on the search for a new Financial Secretary, who will hopefully come on during the spring and have plenty of time to learn from Grace during an overlap period. We will most certainly have a party closer to her actual retirement date! Thank you, Grace!!

Lead Pastor: Rev. Dino Rustin

Care & Visitation: Rev. Dr. Lewis Trotter

Organist/Director of Music Ministry: Ted Hayes

Grace Lane, Financial Secretary
Christine Melchior, Custodian
Diane Varnadore, Pianist

Michelle Noval, Admin. Assistant
Fernando Olaya, Maintenance Tech.
Christina Ammenti, Nursery

Church Web Site: www.firstpresbradenton.com
Church Email address: office@firstpresbradenton.com
Address: 1402 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34205
Contact Numbers: (941) 746-6141 / Fax: (941) 747-1198



- 3 Gwynneth Rustin
- 5 Manuel Gonzalez, Ralph Garrison
- 8 Charles Hasper
- 9 Erich Lippert
- 10 Jim Dunlap, Emily Buskirk
- 11 Harry Ferguson, Diane Varnadore
- 13 Belinda Ferguson, Grace Eason
- 15 Jeff King
- 17 Wayne Scroggins
- 18 Debbie Harp, Mark Campbell
- 24 Diane Adams
- 27 Allen Day
- 28 Cathy Phelps, John Chaney
- 29 Kim Johnson, Vanessa Bobkoskie





FPC Building Committee Update



The Church Building Project is moving steadily along with plans for the renovations and updates to our facilities. It may seem like nothing is happening, but I can assure you that is not the case. We recently met with the local Fire Marshal Kenneth Langston of Bradenton to discuss our building plans. Mr. Langston is in charge of the Fire Prevention Bureau. His primary concern was making sure our plans included sprinkler and fire alarm systems with any changes or additions to our buildings. Although our ultimate goal is to have all the facilities protected, he is willing to work with us to achieve that goal in the next 10-15 years.


Our contractor Halfacre is working on a conceptual budget to determine costs. Zoller-Autrey is working on design development and construction documents as we move forward. Mike Haney, Mechanical Engineer, is working on designing an efficient and effective HVAC System. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the building committee if you have any questions or concerns.

Wayne Scroggins, Chairman

Members: Kaye Butler, Steve Porter, Kathy Schermer and Bill Schmoll



First Presbyterian Church ~ 1402 Manatee Ave West ~ Bradenton, FL 34205 ~ Published monthly



WHO IS JESUS
WHO IS JESUS?
A Tenebrae Service

"Who Is Jesus" composed and arranged by Joel Raney is a Lenten musical that will be presented by the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church, including a small chamber orchestra on Maundy Thursday, April 18, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Not "Who Was Jesus?" but "Who Is Jesus?" The question is asked in the present tense because it's Christ's interaction with our lives in the here and now that is the focus of this Musical Tenebrae service. The events of Holy Week are presented through enticing arrangements of familiar hymns and spirituals plus narration, culminating with the crucifixion story in a moving rendition of "O Sacred Head Now Wounded."

Plan now and get this event on your calendar. You will want to invite all your friends and neighbors.

If you are interested in being a part of the choir, contact Ted Hayes, 941-356-0714.

Ted Hayes

Thank you from Worship & Music

The Christmas season is over and we're into a new year. I want to personally thank the many people who helped decorate our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall and take it all down. A lot of work goes into making it a beautiful reflection and celebration of the birth of Jesus. Thank you to Barbara Tyler, Mary Hoagland, Joanne Miller, Nancy Varner, Barbara Bordereix, Mary Beth Bustle, Sally Bishop, Melody Porter, Steve Porter, Brian Varnadore, Joe Dickerson, and Coleman Gravlee for helping with the windows, trees, wreaths, and Fellowship Hall decor. Thanks also to the elders and deacons who served communion and to Susan Vorpahl for organizing and decorating the concert reception. Blessings to the families and individuals who helped light the Advent wreath each Sunday. Then we cannot forget Ted and Diane, the Bells and the choir, and the informal band for the beautiful music that inspired all of us. May this New Year bring many blessings as we look forward to many more celebrations together.

Mary Herold

Christmas Concert & Reception



TABLE TALK

JOIN A GROUP TODAY!

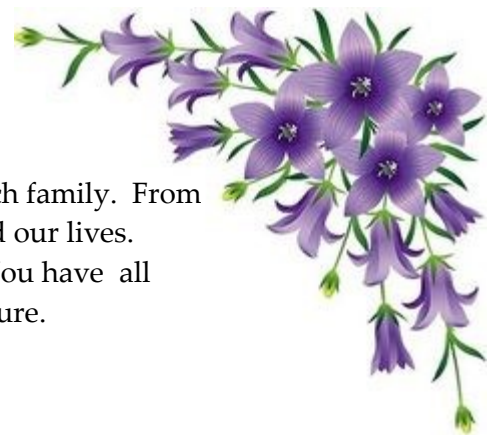


Table Talk Dinner Groups are starting back up in February. This ministry is a unique way to gather as a family of faith and a great way to fellowship through dining, meeting new friends and reuniting with old ones. You need not be a member to participate! You will be in groups of 8, mixing couples with singles. Singles will have partners to share in the hosting. Groups will meet once a month on an agreed day of the week and time of day, for four months. When it is your turn to host, it is your option to either dine at your home or dine out. Dining at home could be you preparing the entire meal, if you like to entertain, or calling for a pot luck. Many creative ideas will abound to be sure. Your group will decide how it will work at the first dinner meeting at a restaurant. Breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner? It's your group's call. Groups will be shuffled and we begin again with "new" friends in a few months.

For more information, please contact Emily Buskirk at 941-792-1495 or ebbuskirk@gmail.com



Thank you!

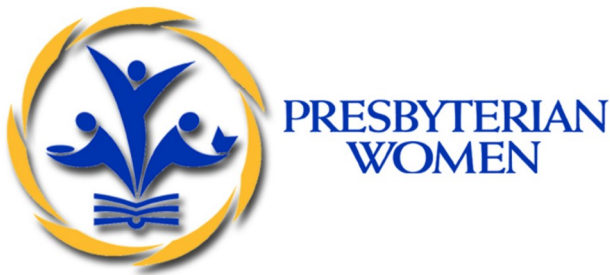


We received such an outpouring of love from our church family. From our heart, we thank each of you who have touched our lives. Jerry enjoyed your "listening ears" and big hugs. You have all been so kind. We are blessed beyond measure.

Most sincerely,
Fedora Campbell & family

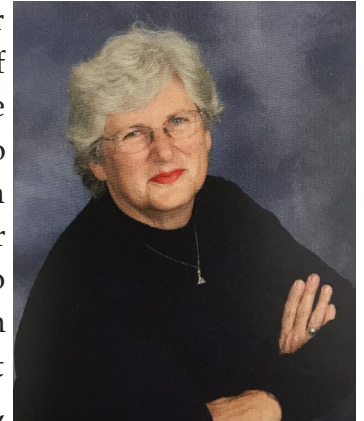
Christian Sympathy

Is extended to Pastor Dino Rustin and family on the death of his grandmother, Nellie Vincent, who died on December 27, 2018, in California.



The Presbyterian Women from First Presbyterian Church are so proud to announce that at the Annual Gathering on February 2, **Barbara Borderieux** will be installed as the Moderator of the Presbyterian Women from Peace River Presbytery.

Barbara has been a very active participant here at First Pres, as well as at other churches where she has lived. In addition to serving two years as Moderator of the Presbyterian Women at Lake View Presbyterian in Huntsville, AL, she served in the same position here at FPC for four years. She then went on to serve two years as Cluster Leader for Peace River PW, serving churches in Manatee and northern Sarasota counties. Before being named Moderator for Peace River PW, she served as Vice Moderator for two years, and she has also chaired the retreat for our Presbytery for the past three years. All of that in addition to singing in the choir, continuing to be a very active member of the 1st Pres PW, and participating in the sewing group. Whew! Congratulations, Barbara! We're very proud of you!



CONGRATULATIONS

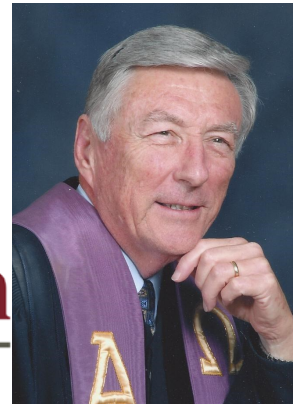
To Katherine "Katie" Schmoll Dietrich and her husband, Barry, parents, and to Bill & Janet Schmoll, grandparents

On the birth of their twins:
Charlotte Louise (6lbs 3oz ~ 20 in)
Maxwell James (6 lbs 11 oz ~ 19 in)
Who were born on
December 27, 2018
In Minneapolis, MN



The 2019 flower chart is in the Outreach Hallway with plenty of open Sundays to fill. If you would like to purchase flowers to beautify the church sanctuary this year, please just sign up on the flower chart, or contact Nancy Varner. This is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize someone that you love. Remember, you may take the flowers home with you after the service, if you wish.

For additional information, please contact Nancy Varner, Flower Coordinator, at 941-704-2053.



Dr. Paul T. Eckel
President, Bible Mission USA

Dear Friends:

As you know, our Mission is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with seven years of experience. We provide biblical materials to those who are struggling with this challenging world. We are engaged in translating the *Gospels* into 'Conversational English.' We, in Bible Mission USA love to express our appreciation for your faithful support.

Right now, we are excited about the delivery of our newest Bible resource, the *Gospel of Mark*. This Gospel will be larger in page and print. *Mark* has been carefully translated from Greek into 'Conversational English.' One of our readers enthusiastically gave her opinion, "As far as I'm concerned, it's a real page-turner. *Mark's* presentation of the Gospel is as clear and concise as: **God is! God is on our side! God's Good News is Jesus!** *Mark* is an ideal Bible study for Christians gathered in 'conversational groupings.' Study Guides are an important part of this book's format. They provide aid to every student.

In his endorsement of our Gospel, Dr. Andrew Purvis offered this fresh insight: "Familiar as is the Jesus story, I felt drawn into reading *Mark* again....for the first time." A fresh encounter with Jesus awaits: **Gospel of Mark**

If you would like more information, please contact Faith Eckel at 941-685-5814, to schedule a visit to our office upstairs at First Presbyterian Church.

If you are interested in Bible Mission USA as a Church Mission, contact me at 941-545-3088.


God's Blessings,

Pete Jensen

Mission Ministry Team

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING **Sunday, February 10, 2019**

The Session of First Presbyterian Church is calling for a Special Meeting of the Congregation on February 10, 2019, during the 11:00 am worship service, to receive a report from the Property Sale Committee and vote on the sale of our property (West of 15th St.).

 FINANCIAL REVIEW	Budgeted Offering Through January	\$69,972
	YTD Offering Received Through January	\$79,964
JANUARY ATTENDANCE		
9 AM AVERAGE	40	11 AM AVERAGE 143

First Presbyterian Church's Session members met for the January Stated meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. As always, the meeting began in devotion and prayer with special emphasis on the many blessings God has bestowed on FPC already in 2019.

- ◆ The property sales team was on hand to deliver an update on their progress.
- ◆ Pastor Dino's report, indicating a busy 2019 ahead of us, was received.
- ◆ Ministry Team reports were received from Worship/Music, Personnel and Fellowship.
- ◆ The GNC chair reported those names in nomination for the upcoming Annual meeting this Sunday, January 27, 2019, during the 11:00 am worship service.
- ◆ The Building team reported progress and noted that a congregational update will be ready and delivered during worship sometime in mid-February.

The remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing and subsequently approving the 2019 FPC budget.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Sonny Fenton

C. Sonny Fenton, Clerk of Session

*Loss ...
Depression ...
Illness ...
Loneliness ...
Spiritual Emptiness ...*

*Christ caring for people
through people*

Stephen Ministers are ready to come along beside you. If you would like to have a Stephen Minister call or visit you, please contact Pastor Dino at the church office (941-746-6141).



PRAYER CONCERNS

Dave Holden, Kaye Butler, Jill Harrington, Patty Li, Vada Johnson, Barbara Russell, Keith Allen, Christine King, Adah Hagen, David Christy, Donald Czaplinsky, Nancy Gonzalez, Jane Stockhausen, Carol Romsburg, Jack Barthel, Frank & Tina Herold, Carol Johnson, Burgess & Wolpers Families, Chris Melchior, Kirsten Trusko, Dave Stacho, Jack Adams, Ellen Cavanaugh, Mary Evelyn Holloman, Kathy Winchester, Bill Saggau, Carol Saggau, James Braunlin, Doug Walsh, Jr., Jeannie Oliver, Sally DenUyl, Betty Harkins, Ray Lopez, Vic & Nancy Kane, Adah Hagen, Frances Moody, Debbie Parvin, Elma Westney, John Weichel, Karen Montgomery, Bonnie Sylvester, Nell Barner, Roger Lane, Jo Zonders

PRAYER REQUESTS

We would love to pray for you. You can either enter your prayer requests on our website or e-mail the church office at: office@firstpresbradenton.com

CARING FOR OUR SHUT-INS // ASSISTED LIVING

<i>Health Care Facilities</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Name(s)</i>
Bay Vue Nursing & Rehab.	105 15th St. W. Bradenton, 34208	941-747-8681	Betty Harkins (Room 132)
DeSoto Beach Club	5201 DeSoto Road Sarasota, 34235	941-953-7160	Adah Hagen (Apt. B209)
Inn at Freedom Village	6410 21st Ave W. Bradenton, 34209	941-798-8250	Margaret "Jo" Zonders (121A)
Summerfield Assisted Living	3409 26th St. W. Bradenton, 34205	941-751-7209	Christine King (Room 202) Vada Johnson (Room 126)
Westminster Manor Assisted Living (RAL)	1700 21st Ave W Bradenton, 34205	941-745-0167	Jeanne Oliver (RAL Room 408)
Westminster Shores Assisted Living (RAL)	1610 3rd Ave W Bradenton, 34205	941-748-1700	Rae Flanders (RAL Room 124) E. Jean Phillips (RAL Room 134) John Weichel (RAL Room 132)
Westminster Towers Assisted Living (RAL)	320 15th St Ct W Bradenton, 34205	941-666-8837 941-567-6976	Vic & Nancy Kane (#141) Debbie Parvin (#133)
Westminster Towers Health Care (HC)	320 15th St Ct. W. Bradenton, 34205	941-747-1881 941-757-5961	Marion McClellan (HC 340A) Elma Westney (HC 321B)

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:00 Spanish Ministry	2
3 Communion Sunday 9:00 Informal Worship 10:00 Discipleship 11:00 Worship Service 3:00 Spanish Ministry	4 Newsletter Submission 6:00 SG/MMNF 6:15 Bell Choir 6:30 Boy Scouts	5 9:00 Food Pantry 9:00 MOPS 10:00 Staff Meeting 3:30 Stephen Min. 5:00 Mission Mtg 6:30 Men's BSF 7:00 Scout Crew	6 10:00 Band Practice 7:00 Choir	7 9:00 Food Pantry 9:00 SG/Piecemakers 7:00 Joy Circle	8 7:00 Spanish Ministry	9
10 9:00 Informal Worship 10:00 Discipleship 11:00 Worship Service 3:00 Spanish Ministry	11 5:00 Worship & Music Meeting 6:00 SG/MMNF 6:15 Bell Choir 6:30 Boy Scouts	12 9:00 Food Pantry 9:15 CE Meeting 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Men's BSF 7:00 Scout Crew	13 10:00 Band Practice 10:00 Faith Circle 7:00 Choir	14 Valentine's Day 9:00 Food Pantry 9:00 SG/Piecemakers 5:00 Finance 	15 7:00 Spanish Ministry	16 4:00 Boy Scout's Blue & Gold Banquet
17 KOINONIA 9:00 Informal Worship 10:00 Discipleship 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 KOINONIA/Community Lunch 3:00 Spanish Ministry	18 President's Day 6:00 SG/MMNF 6:15 Bell Choir Church Office Closed	19 9:00 Food Pantry 9:00 MOPS 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:30 Pew Crew 6:30 Men's BSF 7:00 Scout Crew	20 10:00 Band Practice 7:00 Choir	21 9:00 Food Pantry 9:00 SG/Piecemakers	22 10:30 Card Ministry 7:00 Spanish Ministry	23
24 9:00 Informal Worship 10:00 Discipleship 11:00 Worship Service 3:00 Spanish Ministry	25 11:30 GNC 6:00 SG/MMNF 6:15 Bell Choir 6:30 Boy Scouts	26 9:00 Food Pantry 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Session 6:30 Men's BSF 7:00 Scout Crew	27 10:00 Band Practice 7:00 Choir	28 9:00 Food Pantry 9:00 SG/Piecemakers 12:00 PW's CT Meeting 6:30 Scout Council	KEY: <i>SG = Small Group</i>	

First Presbyterian Church
1402 Manatee Ave W
Bradenton, Florida 34205

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Prepared Especially For...



Happy Valentine's Day

**Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is of God;
and everyone who loves
is born of God
and knows God.**

1 John 4:7