

Cross CONNECTIONS

OCTOBER 2011

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SARASOTA, FL

Dear Friends of God's Kingdom,

The following three paragraphs appeared in a recent letter I wrote to the membership of First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota. Please read them again prayerfully.

To put this church on solid footing financially, a substantial percentage increase will be necessary from each member. FORWARD IN FAITH... CHANGING LIVES AND SPREADING HOPE is this year's theme. A theme is just words without financial undergirding.

The top three motivations for giving by church members across the country are as follows:

A deep felt gratitude to God.

A conviction that financial giving is an integral part of a spiritual relationship with God.

A belief that service to God through Christ's Church is a privilege.

In my brief tenure as your Interim Head of Staff, I am convinced you can celebrate these three motivations for giving with shouts of praise and maybe even ending with a grand Hallelujah.

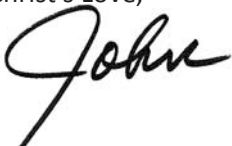
Commitment Sunday is October 30, 2011. The sermon title will be "A Seed Distribution Center." Generous financial gifts to Christ's ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota provide seeds that are abundantly scattered and multiplied by God's love for recipients as well as for the givers.

The Pastor Nominating Committee will be elected on October 9, 2011. This election signals the official beginning of a search for God's servant who will be called as the Pastor and Head of Staff of this vital ministry. As your Interim Pastor I anticipate putting to rest the question, "Can we really afford to do this?" The replacement question that will arise from the ashes will be, "How can we be faithful in the distribution of God's financial abundance given by the membership?"

In mid-October a letter with an enclosed pledge card will arrive in your home from the Stewardship Committee. Seize the opportunity. Rip open the letter. Join the Great Parade of witnesses from the past as you dedicate your resources and your life to Christ's ministry of love in the Sarasota community.

Imagine a new future for God's glory.

In Christ's Love,



Interim Pastor/Head of Staff: The Reverend Dr. John Ross

Associate Pastor: The Reverend Clayton Thomas
Director of Music Ministries: Jack M. Levick

Pastor for Spanish Ministries: The Reverend Julio Travieso
Intern for Youth & Families: Daniel McCurdy

**Forward
in Faith**

*... Changing Lives
and Spreading
Hope*



Love Notes



Dear Edith Phillips,

Please accept this letter as a small token of my great appreciation for the tremendous work you do for the families at Family Promise Sarasota. Your contribution of time, energy, heart, organization and hospitality to our families in crisis, is appreciated and valued greatly. I realize the Coordinator position is not an easy job, but you have taken it on with grace and dedication. What a wonderful representative you are for your congregation at First Presbyterian.

In working with you over these last few months, I have noticed the sincere heart you have for the families who need the assistance of Family Promise. Your attention to detail, and making the guest families as comfortable as possible are noticed. Not only do you help coordinate and organize your team of volunteers for each host week, but you take things a step further. Assisting families as they graduate and move into their new homes, I've seen the efforts you and Linda Buckley have made to help them in their transition. Your willingness to do "extra" when needed does not go unnoticed, as recognized when our Day Center needed cleaning up before our Open Houses and you showed up to help. I also appreciate the way in which you look to the Lord to guide you in your work.

Thank you for being such a vital and important part of the Family Promise Sarasota team. I enjoy working with you, and am so glad this program has made our paths cross. It makes me smile to think of just HOW MANY families you have made such a difference to, and for the many more to come.

With appreciation and blessing,
Wendy Fitton
Network Manager
Family Promise of Sarasota, Inc.

Dear Church Family,

I want to express my gratitude to the members for remembering my husband, Doctor James Thornhill, on his birthday in August. He turned 102 this year and each greeting he received brought us joy.

Sincerely,
Mercedes Thornhill

We would like to extend a warm thank you to the children and leaders of Summer of Service for the addition of a creatively inspired bookcase to house a wonderful collection of children's books for Family Promise guests. This was an opportunity to introduce the children to the many missions of our church and truly a labor of love.

Edith Phillips and Linda Buckley
Family Promise Co-Coordinators

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, e-mails, flowers, and all the warm expressions of sympathy for our family during this time following my mother's death. It is so wonderful to be surrounded by such love and caring.


Mary Brown Scheper

Preschool News

by Clare Carter, Director

Preschool classes are in full swing. There have been many activities designed to help the children build relationships with others and interact in groups. Our biggest and most exciting group activity is our monthly assembly with Pastor Clay. Did you know that creative movement helps children develop critical thinking and problem solving skills? Pastor Clay taught us some songs with very complicated steps and hand movements. It's so much fun to see the entire school interact with our clergy in such a fun and special way. Thank you for sharing your time with our preschoolers Pastor Clay!

We will be hosting a clothing, toy and diapers drive to benefit Mothers Helping Mothers. It will be held the week of October 17- 21. If you have anything to donate, please bring the items to the preschool office during that week. Mothers Helping Mothers is a 100% volunteer organization that helps mothers and children in need. Families in need receive the donated items for free.

FYI: The American Academy of Pediatrics now officially recommends that children should be in a rear-facing car seat until two years of age, or until they outgrow the weight and height limit of the seat. Some parents may question why. It is because babies and toddlers' heads are large and heavy in proportion to their necks and bodies. Rear-facing car seats are designed to support head and neck in a collision. Please see the following website for more important information, <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS>. 


Presbyterian Women Thank Offering

by Pat Feeney

Women's groups in the Presbyterian Church have a powerful history. The Thank Offering has long been a tradition of the Presbyterian Women. It has provided and continues to provide much-needed financial assistance to numerous worthwhile programs not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. Each year, domestic and international projects are carefully and prayerfully selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee to help meet a crucial need. Forty percent (40%) of this offering is used to support hospitals and community health programs that place priority in helping the most needy members of God's community. The remaining sixty percent (60%) is used for new creative ideas for mission.

Twenty six projects were chosen to be recipients from the 2010 Thank Offering. The aid given to these projects relates directly to the people being served. A grant to the Synod of Living Waters will purchase adaptive equipment for individuals attending the Brain Injury Adventure Camp

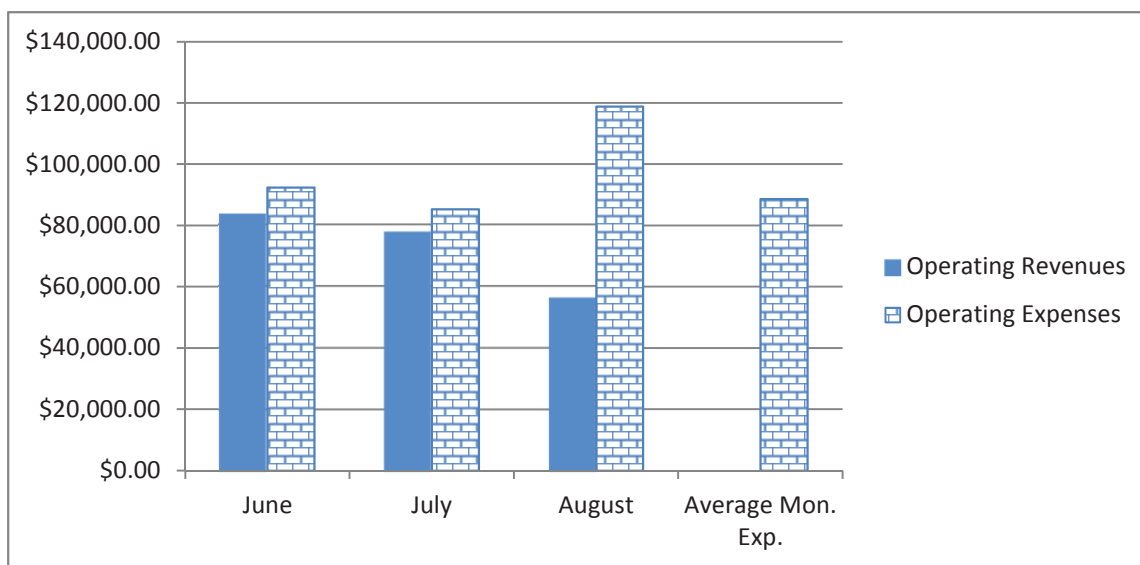
in Robards, Kentucky. Ekwendeni Hospital is one of the three hospitals in the Synod of Livingstonia (Malawi). Its mission is to provide preventive, curative and holistic care with Christ-like compassion to the 200,000 people in its catchment area. This grant will allow construction of water tanks to provide the hospital staff and patients with clean water, lessening the spread of disease and infection. Twenty four more projects and missions will be able to move forward because of these grants.

The Thank Offering is a way for women to express gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering envelopes will be in your bulletins on October 16. Presbyterian women are grateful for your continued generosity. "...for God satisfies the thirsty, and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107:9 

Dollars & Cents

June - July - Aug. Revenues & Expenses

	June	July	August	Average Mon. Exp.
Operating Revenues	\$83,688.00	\$78,021.00	\$56,655.00	
Operating Expenses	\$92,447.00	\$85,346.00	\$118,803.00	\$88,625.00



Your support of First Presbyterian's many ministries is appreciated! 

Swattin' Won't Stop the Buzzin'

by Ellen Forbes, RN, Parish Nurse, Disaster Planning Team


Local health officials remind residents that mosquito activity is likely to increase in Sarasota County as the typical summer rain pattern continues. Everyone is urged to take precautions to reduce their exposure to areas where mosquitoes breed and to prevent mosquito bites. These 5 D Precautions help prevent mosquito-borne infections such as West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, dengue fever, and malaria:

Dusk and Dawn – Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood. For many species, this is during the dusk and dawn hours although mosquitoes can bite at other times during the day. When possible, stay in facilities with screened windows and doors and air-conditioning to reduce risk of bites.

Dress – When outdoors and mosquitoes are present, wear clothing such as shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt to cover most of your skin. Infants should be kept indoors or mosquito netting should be used over carriers when mosquitoes are present.

DEET – When the potential exists for exposure to mosquitoes, use repellents containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-metoluamide, or N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) according to manufacturer's directions. Picardin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are other repellent options.

Drainage – Check around your home to rid the area of standing water, including containers that hold water where mosquitoes can lay their eggs. Flush bromeliad plants with fresh water or use a larvicide (e.g. BTI granules) in the "tank" of the bromeliads to limit mosquito development.

For information on how to reduce mosquito-breeding sites around your home or to report a mosquito problem, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit the Sarasota County Health Department's (SCHD) Website, www.sarasotahealth.org. 



The Health and Wholeness Ministry

by Cheryl Track, Parish Nurse

Did you know that the Health and Wholeness Ministry was started 4 ½ years ago at First Presbyterian by two nurses who had the same vision for the church? Their vision was and is to provide the church and community with education that focuses on health promotion and wellness as well as spiritual care and support in time of illness and grief.


Did you know that your church has two Parish Nurses and a Health Ministry Team? The Parish Nurses are professional Registered Nurses who serve as volunteers for the faith community to promote health and wholeness of the congregation. They seek to be a strong influence with the congregation in all areas of church life including worship, education, support networks and recreation. The Health Ministry Team supports the Parish Nurses and meets quarterly. We would love to have you on our team!

We do a lot of referring! Over the past 4 ½ years there have been referrals to assisted living facilities, hospice care, home care, new physicians as well as referrals to the Caregiver Resource Center, SMH Memory Clinic, Women's Resource Center, Senior Friendship Center for medical/dental needs, education, and balance/exercise programs, and the Veterans Administration. We are lucky to have so many resources in Sarasota with many of them being free.

Did you know we accompany parishioners to doctor's appointments to be a second ear, and they visit people at home, in the hospital and other care facilities? When you or a loved one is ill or having surgery, we are there to support you along the way if you need us.

We write monthly health related articles for *Cross Connections* and have a Health and Wholeness bulletin board located outside the church office that is changed monthly. Here you can find out about programs going on in the community and find some resource information. Inside of the church office you will find copies of the programs to take with you.

You should call us when you have a health question, need, or just would like someone to listen. You can also call us to check in on someone you are concerned about. Cheryl Track can be reached at 941-320-3828.

October 2nd, I will be providing blood pressure screenings during the Mission Fair. We are usually in the Parish Nurse office, but on that day I will be in the library. Please stop by our resource table in the courtyard to learn more, pick up some freebies, and enter our drawing for a chance to win a Publix \$25 gift card! 



October is Fair Trade month, and the fair trade kiosk will be reopening on World Communion Sunday, October 2. Come to Fellowship Hall for samples of chocolate, bread dipped in olive oil & za'atar, and Love Buzz, the featured coffee. 


For What or Whom, Do You Labor?

by Edith Phillips, Family Promise, Co-Coordinator

Having Labor Day fall into the week of our Family Promise Hosting week, the significance of the end of summer holiday begged to be explored. Passed by the U. S. Congress in 1894, Labor Day is a federal holiday celebrating the economic and social contributions of workers. Now even more in these difficult economic times, people tend to view work and honest labor as not only a necessity, but a privilege.

For what, or for whom do you labor? Yourself, your family, your civic responsibility? At what point does this include laboring for the Lord? Paul admonished the church at Corinth: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (I Corinth. 15:58). First Presbyterian has taken on the mission to be a temporary shelter for certain homeless families who are struggling to get back to a position of self-sufficiency, and that labor of Christ-like love requires many hours of volunteerism to support this ministry. A log requires that we track those volunteer hours, and at the end of the week, our church put in well over 300 hours.

As Family Promise Coordinators, Linda Buckley and I would like to thank all those many people who donated their time and labor to making our hosting week a success. George Chorba who recruits overnight hosts; Dana Gaddis and her team for unloading the trailer and setting up cots; Jim Cook's team for taking down, loading, and delivering to the next church; Diane Johnston as kitchen coordinator; Wendy Miller who stocks the fridge and pantry; Rich Dulaney who drops off and picks up the mountain of laundry; and Rachel Martin as our check-in point are indispensable for the massive effort involved. The labors of close to 50 others are greatly appreciated: Kris Abitz, George Buermann, Virginia Caracena, Jill Cardinal (and 6 years old Dylan), Scott and Clare Carter, Karen Eastmoore, Pat Feeney, Jill Fegan, Bob Forbes, Rolando Garrci, Victoria Guenther, Jennifer Hall, Bruce and Pat Higgins, David Johnston, Jo Keep, Jean Martin, Scott McLeod, John McLeod, Ron and Jinny Miller, Tom and Janet Olshewsky, Sue Pantling, Naomi Pearson, Neal and Diane Price, James Taylor, Karen Turner, Larry and Marcia Schaper, Jay Swick, Sheldon and Vicki Wacksman, Anne Whiteside, Barbara and Roger Woods and the Spanish Congregation.

However, we need more who would be willing to assume sub-coordinator positions. If God is calling you to become involved in even the smallest way, your labor in the Lord's work will not be in vain. 

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting Sunday, October 9, at noon for the purpose of electing the Pastoral Nominating Committee. Please plan to stay for this brief but important meeting.

To the Faith Family of First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota:

We have all been blessed by the experience of serving on the Congregational Nominating Committee during this transition year. We are very cognizant of the serious responsibility of nominating those who will be charged with finding our new Pastor (Head of Staff), for these are the people who, through the choice they make, will help shape the future of First Presbyterian Church.

We are very much aware that we are servants of this family of faith, and the best interests of our entire congregation were foremost in our minds at all times. We were united in our purpose to present to you a representative and diverse slate.

After many hours of research, discussion and prayerful consideration, we have found the nine people who we believe God has called to this work. All nominees have agreed to serve if elected. We are honored to present to you the Pastoral Nominating Committee slate.

Peace and Grace,

The Congregational Nominating Committee

Annette Sherman, Elder, Moderator
Kathy Herron, Deacon Representative
Nance Guth, Recording Secretary
Jill Cardinal
Margaret Cass
Jim Dean
Dana Gaddis
Ann McFadyen
Barby McKown
Kent Miller
Marcia Schaper

Candidates for the Pastoral Nominating Committee

Ellen Forbes was born in Baltimore, Maryland where she grew up in an active United Methodist Church. During her college years, she met her husband Bob on a blind date. They were married in 1969, relocated to Sarasota in 1973, and joined FPC in 1978. Their two daughters,

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Jennifer and Melissa, were nurtured at FPC with the support of committed youth and laity leaders. Jennifer, now in Louisville, KY, has two children, and Melissa, in Raleigh, NC, has two children.

Ellen is an RN with a certification in nephrology, and most of her career has been spent in hemodialysis specifically. She retired from Sarasota Memorial Hospital in 2006 and is currently employed part-time in an outpatient dialysis center as the evening charge nurse.

Ellen began her service to the faith community of FPC as a youth leader, and then she moved into adult education. She has served two terms as Elder, first as moderator of the Adult Education Committee, then as moderator of the Spiritual Formation Committee. Ellen has led workshops within the local church and presbytery in Dance in Worship, Using the Labyrinth as a Prayer Practice, Meditative Prayer, and Promoting the Development of Spiritual Formation Within the Congregation. She has led retreats on Sabbath Rest, Embodied Holiness, Prayer Practices, and intergenerational and youth retreats. She has taught and led numerous adult classes including Companions in Christ and Kerygma, each a 33-week curriculum requiring commitment and response.

In 2002 Ellen enrolled in the certificate in spiritual formation program at Columbia Theological Seminary (CTS) in Decatur, GA. During the following seven years, she studied with the CTS faculty as well as many noted theologians. She completed her spiritual formation practicum at FPC. The final requirement of the program took her on a pilgrimage to Israel and the West Bank. She earned her certificate in 2009.

Ellen continues to serve as one of the parish nurses of FPC, the labyrinth facilitator, a frequent contributor in adult education, and as a member of the Spiritual Formation Committee.

Jean Fulton has been married to Bill for twenty years. She was born and raised in the South Hills area of Pittsburgh and continued living there until she and Bill moved to Sarasota in 1995. She worked for Bell of Pennsylvania and AT&T Information Systems for 17 years, retiring as a marketing manager. After her retirement, Jean opened RLB Saddlery, which grew into one of the premier saddle shops in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Jean has attended FPC since 1995, has been a member for six years, and has a deep love for and commitment to our church. She is currently serving as an Elder in the class of 2012 and is co-moderator of the Missions Committee. She was responsible for introducing the "mission tours," which allowed interested members to tour the

facilities of our mission partners and learn more about their work. Jean is also a member of the Worship Committee and has been both a greeter and an usher. She is an ardent supporter of the FPC music ministry and has assisted with fundraising for the First Brass concerts and other special music events. She is currently working with the Worship Committee organizing the choir and brass Christmas concert in December, and developing plans for another concert in the spring of 2012.

Jean also works at Resurrection House as a volunteer; she serves as their fundraising chairman and is a member of the board of directors. FPC is one of the founding churches of Resurrection House. Her hobbies include reading and swimming.

Victor Garraus has been married to Nikki for 18 years, and they have two children: Austin, 17, who attends Pine View High School and works at the Rickloff's Ice Cream Store, and Madison, 15, who attends Riverview High School. Victor was born and raised in Sarasota and is a graduate of Riverview High School. He received his degree in culinary arts with honors in 1988 from Johnson and Wales University in Charleston, SC. He was a chef at Chez Med on Siesta Key, Fairways at Forest Lakes, and the Sarasota Memorial Hospital Cafeteria. Good cooking runs in his family, as his parents once owned a restaurant and his brother owns J.R.'s Old Packing House Café. Currently, Victor is a commercial insurance agent with Gifford-Heiden Insurance in Venice. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, boating, cooking, and travel.

Victor and Nikki were married at Siesta Key Chapel, right next door to their home. A few years later, they attended First Presbyterian on Easter Sunday. They enjoyed the worship service, saw how awesome FPC's children's program was, and they joined! Victor has taught Sunday school to middle school and high school students for the past 14 years. He has been on four youth mission trips to Cedarkirk, two to Thornwell Orphanage and one to Im-mokalee.

Victor frequently shares his cooking skills to prepare delicious meals for FPC activities such as youth ministry functions, Vacation Bible School and our Hispanic congregation. He regularly helps run the soundboard for New Song worship service. He values the opportunity of raising his children in the FPC faith family and seeing them nurtured by our youth ministry programs. Victor's most meaningful experience has been working with FPC youth and watching our awesome young people grow into outstanding adults.

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Emilie Kimbrough has been married to Bob for 54 years. They have two adult sons, Jim and Rob, who live at the Duvall Home. Emilie was born in Miami, and Bob was born and grew up in Sarasota. Emilie graduated from FSU with a BS degree in elementary and early childhood education. The couple married as Bob entered law school at the University of Florida, and Emilie taught third grade and public kindergarten in Gainesville while Bob was in law school. Emilie moved to Sarasota in 1960 when he graduated and then joined FPC. She worked with our elementary and preschool age children for many years. She served on the Board of Deacons for five years and on Session for three different terms. As an Elder, she was moderator of the Personnel, Property, and Parish Committees. She also served on the Building Committee for the present education building and worked with church school education.

Recently, Emilie has been involved with Peace River Presbytery on an Administrative Commission and also with the Permanent Judicial Commission, so her contribution at First Presbyterian is currently limited to singing in the choir for the early worship service.

Among Emilie's most noteworthy accomplishments are serving as moderator of Peace River Presbytery and as chair of council, as well as spending 6 years on the Committee On Ministry. She was also on the Presbytery's Mission and Justice Committee and served one year as chair of that committee. Emily is president of the Duvall Parents, Guardians and Friends Association, which is a support group for the facility where her sons live. Just last November, she retired from the horse world after 35 years of riding and competing in the discipline of dressage.

Adam W. Martin was born and raised in New Jersey and graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a degree in industrial management and engineering in 1963. Prior to graduation, he married his wife Patricia. They have two daughters: Laurie, who lives outside of Milwaukee, WI and Christine, who lives in Indianapolis, IN. The Martins have five grandchildren, 3 boys and 2 girls.

Adam began his career as an industrial engineering trainee at United States Steel in Pittsburgh, PA and was promoted to industrial engineer prior to leaving in 1966. He then joined Quaker Oats as an industrial engineer and performed a number of management positions before becoming assistant plant manager. In 1979, he joined the Miller Brewing Company as department manager and retired in 1996 as plant manager of the Albany, GA Brewery with over 1,000 employees.

Adam and Patricia moved to Sarasota in 1999 and lived here part time until 2005, when they sold their place in Milwaukee to make this their primary residence. They

joined First Presbyterian Church in 2001 and Adam was ordained as an Elder in 2007. He has served at FPC on the Personnel, Stewardship and Long-Range Planning Committees and was moderator of the Finance Committee. Adam is presently also serving as treasurer of Peace River Presbytery. In addition, he held the positions of vice-president and president of his condo association for six years. His hobbies are golf, cooking and exercising.

Marvin Miller and his wife Mary Ellen have three married sons and four grandchildren. The family lived in Goshen, IN, Sarasota, FL, Harrisonburg, VA and finally, for the last 30 years, again in Sarasota. Marvin has worked in music for nearly his entire life. His 50-year career as a choir director began at age 15 and lasted until his retirement in 2003. Following college, he worked in education, conducting, church music ministry, and as church music consultant for a local music store. He received his BA degree in music education from Goshen College, Goshen, IN and his Master's degree in music education from James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

After teaching high school music for 15 years in Harrisonburg, he and Mary Ellen moved to Sarasota in 1981, where he was involved full time with church music, Christian education and youth ministry for the next nine years. From 1991-1994 he and Mary Ellen served as teachers in a missionary school just outside Nairobi, Kenya. After returning from Kenya, in addition to his full-time employment at Mathis Music in Sarasota, he served part-time as music director at First Presbyterian Church of Bradenton, and later at Covenant Life Presbyterian Church in Sarasota.

Marvin's hobbies include woodworking, furniture repair and volunteering as handyman wherever needed. While serving on the Board of Deacons, Marvin was instrumental in defining the need for a hospitality ministry at FPC, and constructed the present hospitality center booth.

His special interest, in addition to interacting with his grandchildren, is serving along with his wife as mission team leaders to Kenya, where FPC has partnered with Ruku Presbyterian (PCEA) Church to help construct a new church building in the Highlands of that beautiful country. February 2012 will mark the sixth mission trip they have led since 2005.

Marvin and Mary Ellen joined FPC in December 2002. Since then, Marvin has served as tenor section leader in the choir for two years, choir member, Deacon, member of the Missions Committee, Worship Committee and First ConNEXTions Committee. For the past two years he has also served as music director of our Spanish congregation.

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Carol Papa has been married to Ken for 29 years, and they have two sons, Troy, 24, and Chad, 21. She holds a BS degree in occupational therapy from Western Michigan University. Carol moved to Sarasota 31 years ago from the Kalamazoo, MI area and has been a member of FPC for 21 years. She works part time as an occupational therapist at Sarasota Memorial Nursing and Rehab Center. She enjoys reading and traveling.

In her years at FPC, Carol has served three terms on Session, taught Sunday school, helped with Vacation Bible School, served on the LOGOS Board and Table Parent Committee, moderated the Children's Ministry Committee and served on a Children's Ministry Committee at the Presbytery level. She has also been a participant in the Building Fund, served on two capital campaigns and the Acts 16 Committee. She has coordinated the ushers and greeters for the New Song service for many years. Carol also co-moderated the World Service Committee, the Long Range Planning Committee and the Vision Task Force. She is currently serving on the Missions Committee and Long Range Planning Committee.

Carol has been on several mission trips: Kenya, Israel/Palestine, and Immokalee. Highlights from her 21 years at FPC include watching her children grow up in a loving church, going to Family Camp at Cedarkirk, assisting with communion and baptisms as an Elder, and helping to start the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast. She has enjoyed working on creative projects such as mission fairs, World Communion Sunday and the Thoughtful Giving booklet.

Kay Steinman is married to Richard. Their daughter Kara is currently attending USF for her master's degree, and their son Nick attends the University of Central Florida where he is studying engineering. Richard works as a professional development specialist for the Sarasota County School Board. Kay was born and raised in a small town in the "thumb area" of Michigan. She lived in Saginaw, MI for a few years and moved to Sarasota in 1984. She works as the director of risk management for the Sarasota Family YMCA and has been with the YMCA for 16 + years.


Kay graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in secondary education. She has served as group leader for the Compassionate Friends, an organization for bereaved parents. She was a member of the founding board of directors for the Greater Sarasota Women's Golf Association. Kay considers her most noteworthy accomplishment to be her fantastic children!

Kay has been a member of this church for 26 years and has served on and/or chaired these committees: Mission,

Children's Education, Youth Education, Worship, Finance, Endowment, Gifts and the 4th Service. Additionally, she has previously served two terms as an Elder, been a Sunday school and Vacation Bible School teacher, participated as an instructor for the communicant's class, and led music at Vacation Bible School. She served on the organizational team to help our church create and build the New Song worship service and has continually committed time and effort to its ongoing development and growth, including singing in the New Song Band. Outside of her many church activities, Kay enjoys reading, playing golf, and singing.

Cordell Van Nostrand is married to Sarah and has two children, Lauren, 6 and Keaton, 4. He and Sarah were both born and raised in Sarasota. Cord has a BS in biology from Florida State University and a BS in civil engineering from the University of South Florida, and he is currently a professional engineer at a structural firm in Sarasota. He enjoys tennis, road biking, vegetable gardening and outdoor activities.

Cord was baptized and confirmed at First Presbyterian Church and has been a member for 21 years. He and Sarah were married at FPC, and both of their children were baptized here. Cord was very active as a youth; he participated in countless Cedarkirk weekends, Youth Sunday worship services, youth group and trips to Montreat.

After college, Cord served as a LOGOS table leader and youth leader. He is currently an Elder and co-moderator of the Property Committee. He is also a member and past chairman of the Peace and Justice Committee and is on the Scholarship Committee. He and Sarah are in a small group exploring spiritual issues. He has been a co-leader for a class on environmental stewardship, volunteered for Vacation Bible School, and assisted in Wee Circle and the nursery. His Grandmother Doris (Oma) Van Nostrand is an active member at FPC and a frequent usher at the early service. Cord has thoroughly enjoyed being on Session and working with the many faithful, energetic Elders and Pastors. He helped to facilitate the new children's wing, install the new sanctuary roof, upgrade restrooms and common areas, enhance the preschool facilities, and support the ministries of FPC. Cord feels blessed to contribute to the growth of the church. 



Cross Connections

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