

## First Presbyterian Church St. Petersburg

*8:15 Service on Summer break til Sept*

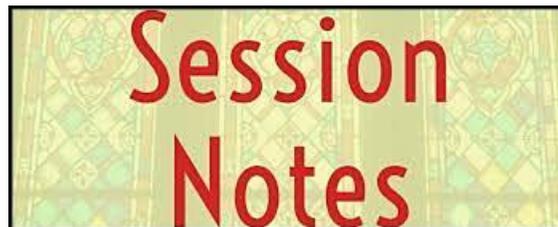
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**Your weekly news &  
updates**

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### This Sunday at FPC

- Join us for worship at 9:00 a.m. -Contemporary Service in Fellowship Hall or 11:00-Traditional Service in the Sanctuary with the Chancel Choir.
- This Sunday we welcome Reverend Libby Shannon to the pulpit at FPC. Rev. Shannon is Moderator of Presbytery Tampa Bay.



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### Shared Facility Use Agreement with Church of the Beatitudes and Redeeming Church

Perhaps you know that the American Baptist Beatitudes Church building, located on Eighth Street N, has been sold to a developer. The Beatitudes Church worshipped in this sanctuary and provided worship space for the 30 member Redeeming Church. Now both congregations are in need of a place for ministry. Shortly before Holy Week, the moderator of the Beatitudes Church approached Pastor Dawn requesting space at First Presbyterian Church for the worship and work of both of these churches. A task force was formed by the session to consider the request.

Following our mission statement to practice the “radical hospitality” of Christ, on May 6, 2018, the session approved the task force’s recommendation for a 90 day trial period and established a small committee to work out the details of the shared use agreement with a small committee from the Beatitudes and Redeeming Churches. Members of the committee from FPC are:

- Uneeda Brewer, [ndepth@aol.com](mailto:ndepth@aol.com),
- Joe Emerson, [j.emerson1996@gmail.com](mailto:j.emerson1996@gmail.com),
- Lynn Kiehne, [lkiehne@gmail.com](mailto:lkiehne@gmail.com),
- Mickey Huguet, [whuguet1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:whuguet1@tampabay.rr.com), and

Each week between now and when the two churches move into the space they will lease from FPC, the FPC committee members will give you information about the pastors, the beliefs and practices of the American Baptist Churches, USA and the progressive Baptist tenants which these two congregations share, provide information on where the churches will worship and the worship times as soon as these details are decided by session as well as answer your questions. We anticipate that the final space sharing agreement will be voted on by session at the July 2nd meeting. We'll also provide other helpful facts that will acquaint the congregations with each other.

In this edition, we introduce Pastor Phil Miller-Evans, pastor of Church of the Beatitudes. Next week we will introduce Pastor Adam Gray, pastor of Redeeming Church.



## Introducing Phil Miller-Evans, Pastor of Church of the Beatitudes

Meet Pastor Phil and his wife Janel. Many of you may know Janel through her work as Chaplain at Westminster Palms.

On August 3, 2018 Pastor Phil will have served sixteen years as the full-time pastor of the American Baptist Church of the Beatitudes. The Church of the Beatitudes was founded in 1962. On Easter Sunday they held their first worship service at 2812 Eighth Street North. The congregation bought the building

from Grace Lutheran Church which was rebuilding on 16th Street North. For 45 years the congregational growth was built on northern retirees who found that the practices of the Southern Baptist churches and other independent Baptist churches was far from the progressive Baptists that they were familiar with. Many of those retirees lived in Palm Shores Retirement Center built and managed by American Baptist Churches USA. Today it is Westminster Palms sold to Westminster Services in 2003. In light of the changing demographics of Saint Petersburg, the congregational focus shifted to a more community-oriented church when Rev. Miller-Evans was called as the new pastor in 2002.

The most important values of progressive Baptist congregations are what Walter B. Shurden, a Baptist theologian and Baptist History scholar described as the **Four Fragile Freedoms**:

- 1. Bible Freedom:** Members are both free and encouraged to study and interpret the scripture for themselves.
- 2. Soul Freedom:** It is the inalienable right of every person to relate to God without the imposition of a creed, the obstructions of clergy, or the intervention of civil government. □
- 3. Church Freedom:** Local churches are free to determine their membership, leadership, to order worship and work, to ordain whom they perceive as gifted for ministry, male or female, and to participate in the larger Body of Christ. □
- 4. Religious Freedom:** We support the separation of church and state. Insisting that government should not interfere in the free exercise of religion nor establish any particular religion. We are free to worship God as we see fit without interference or imposition.

The Church of the Beatitudes has long been committed to ecumenical work and the common mission to our community. The congregation has been active in the work of CUCA (Congregations United for Community Action), IMA (Interdenominational Ministers Association), and the St. Petersburg Clergy Association (now the Interfaith Tampa Bay Association). Pastor Phil served a number of years as the Vice President of the St. Petersburg Clergy Association and his wife served many years as the President of the Interfaith Association. We have served alongside many community projects with First Presbyterian brothers and sisters.

The Church of the Beatitudes has been committed to mission work in the community having worked and supported Happy Workers, Saint Petersburg Free Clinic, Operation

Attack, Daystar, to name a few. Until recently, the congregation awarded scholarships to racial minorities for college education (The Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship) which many current local minority leaders were awarded for their graduate studies.

In 2013 the congregation launched a separate 501c3 corporation, Micah Center of Pinellas County, Inc. The mission and vision of Micah Center is caring and compassionate ventures with the underemployed. From that work, the major project has been a literacy program to help under resourced children achieve academically. We believe that students ability to graduate high school is the best way to end cycles of poverty. A number of First Presbyterian Church members have volunteered in the literacy program as one-to-one readers, and Micah Center is very appreciative of the financial support through the Mission Committee of FPC.

Pastor Phil is excited about the new horizon of ministry in the Saint Petersburg community as Beatitudes, Redeeming and First Presbyterian respond to the ever changing needs of our neighbors and as we fulfill our call as disciples of Christ Jesus.

In next Friday's eNews, we'll introduce Pastor Adam Gray of Redeeming Church.



### **Favorite Hymn Sunday coming up on July 22nd**

Nominate your favorite hymn and tell us why. If selected, your favorite hymn will be sung on July 22nd.

[Click here for Favorite Hymn for 11:00 service](#)

[Click here for Favorite Praise Song for 9:00 service](#)

Return your entries to the offering plate or church office.

## **Health tips from Faith Community Nursing**

### **Blood Pressure**

It's important for you to know your current blood pressure numbers, even when you're feeling fine. High blood pressure usually has no signs or symptoms, but it can lead to a higher risk of heart disease, stroke, and kidney failure. Now's a great time to get tested and find out your blood pressure number.

**Reminder:** On June 23rd from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. there is a "Congregational Health Promoter Training Program" at St. Anthony's. Contact Andrea Rose if you plan to attend (727-825-1709. [Click here](#) for add'l details.

## **F**irst **P**resbyterian **D**ay **S**chool



The Day School is currently in the middle of our Summer Camp. We are off next week to support and enjoy the FPC Vacation Bible School. Then we have four more weeks of Summer Camp (sold out).

We are currently giving tours for our limited availability in our 2's, 3's and 4's classes that start August 20, 2018. Contact the day school office at 727-894-5889 to schedule a tour.

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## SCHOLARSHIP Opportunity

We are pleased to announce that we have endowment funds to support some scholarships. If you have interest, please contact Marien Mitchell, Executive Assistant to the Pastor ([mmitchell@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:mmitchell@fpc-stpete.org)) for an application. Deadline to apply this year is July, 15, 2018.

[Click here](#) for details about the two scholarships available.



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A Stephen Ministry Congregation of the PC (USA) - Christ empowering people to care for people.

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