

S
ER
VANT
HOOD

E
VAN
GEL
ISM

WOR
SHIP

DIS
CIPLE
SHIP

NOVEMBER 2020

ISSUE 20-11

The Diligent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARP LAKE WALES, FL

“...a Christ-centered fellowship of believers devoted to glorifying God through true worship, personal evangelism, discipleship, and servanthood.”

AT A GLANCE

Pg. 2, Leadership

“Glorifying God with Our All,” Session Highlights, Prayer Focus

Pg. 4, Discipleship

“Politics in Its Place,” Ekklesia, Small Group Leaders, Podcasts, Discipleship Weekend

Pg. 6, Music Ministry

“Victorian Age Hymnody”

Pg. 7, High School & Middle School

“The ‘Why’ and the ‘How’ Questions,” FPCLW Youth Ministry Vision

Pg. 9, Children’s Ministry

“Growing in God’s Word: Bleed Bible”

Pg. 10, Church Family

Milestone Celebrations, Nursery/Sunday School Restart, Budget Sundays, LWCC Food Drive, Hanging of the Green

Leadership

GLORIFYING GOD WITH OUR ALL

From Pastor Chad

Malachi was a fifth-century B.C. prophet who preached the Word of the Lord to the returned exiles of Judah in and around Jerusalem. The temple had been rebuilt and worship resumed, but it was half-hearted worship at best. The people were giving God less than what he required, and what's worse, they were led in doing so by the priests (Mal 1:6), who offered imperfect sacrifices, polluting the table of the Lord. In the meantime, it seems that the Israelites were complaining about the smallness of provision that God was giving to them.

In the face of their complaining, half-hearted faith, God sent Malachi to call his people to come back to him. In Malachi 3:6, he said, "[Truly] I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children, of Jacob, are not consumed." The big, three-dollar word for this concept is immutable. It means unchanging. God is unchanging; he's immutable. Circumstances can change. There are good times and bad times in this life. The stock market is up one day and down the next. Life seems predictable in many ways, and then a global pandemic hits. You and I change, too. If we put our faith in the things of this world, then it will shift like sand in the desert, drifting here and there with the changing winds of our circumstances. Not God. He is the covenant-keeping God. In this verse, he called his people "the children of Jacob," which is a covenantal term. The blessing of God's covenant had gone from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob, and it was Jacob who was given the name Israel. It was Jacob, by God's sovereign grace, who had twelve sons that became the heads of the twelve tribes of the nation of God's people. Despite their repeated waywardness over the centuries, God was graciously, mercifully faithful to the sons of Jacob and their descendants. He had not forgotten his covenant promises to them. He would be unchanging in his faithfulness.

The Gospel tells us that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is still immutable. His unchanging covenant faithfulness is evident in the fact that he sent his Son Jesus Christ to die for us, making atonement for our sins. In Christ, he remains faithful to us in times of plenty and want, times of joy and sorrow, and times of sickness

and health. No pandemic, no election result, no stock market shift, not even death can separate us from his unchanging grace and mercy.

God is unchanging in his faithfulness, but the people of Malachi's day were unfaithful. They "robbed" God by being disobedient to his commandments. One example of their theft was their withholding from God the full tithe. Israel was called to give a tenth (tithe) to the temple as an offering to the Lord. The tithe was used as the provision of the priests and Levites, who oversaw the religious activities of Israel. Perhaps they justified themselves in giving less. Earlier portions of Malachi seem to suggest that they felt like God was withholding from them, like he was not giving to them all that they deserved or were entitled. Have you ever felt like that? Like God wasn't doing enough for you financially, relationally, emotionally, vocationally, spiritually, etc.? Perhaps you even thought, if God isn't going to meet your "needs," then why should you give him your time, talents, and treasures? But notice what is implicit in God's Word through Malachi. If by withholding ourselves from God we are robbing him, then that must mean that we are not our own. We belong to God. Not just some, not just a tenth but all of our hearts, all of our souls, all of our minds, and all of our bodies are his (Matthew 22:37-38). Paul writes, "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God with your body" (1 Cor 6:20). Elsewhere he exhorts Christians "by the mercies of God, to present [their] bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is [their] spiritual worship" (Rom 12:1). Jesus Himself said that if we would follow him, we must deny ourselves (that is our old-sinful-desires-selves) and take up our crosses and follow him.

Such a call may sound a bit grim, but the self-sacrificing life in Christ is not joyless. Not at all. God told the people to test him. He told them to bring in the full tithe and see, just see if he did not open up the very windows of heaven and pour out such blessing upon them that all the nations would take notice and call them "a land of delight." They did not deserve it, and neither do we, but that is exactly what God has done in sending Jesus as Savior and the Spirit as Comforter and Guide. He has poured out such

Continues on page 3...

Continued from page 2...

blessing that the nations have indeed taken notice. Still today, men and women from every nation, tongue, and tribe are coming to faith because they see the joy of God's people in Christ. They, too, want to taste and know the blessing of God's grace through Jesus. My prayer is that we here at FPC would be a people that delight in living sacrificially for the church and for others to the glory of God. My prayer is that our delight in living to the glory of God would be so noticeable that others would see it and would rightly call us blessed. More than that, that they would want such delight for themselves and that they would receive it by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. ■

PRAYER FOCUS

NOVEMBER 1 - Those Grieving the Loss of Loved Ones in Observance of All Saints Day

NOVEMBER 8 - Our Nation: In Honor of Veteran's Day and Following Election Day

NOVEMBER 15 - King's Cross Church in Sepulpa, OK: The Newest Congregation of the Florida Presbytery

NOVEMBER 22 - Thanksgiving to the Lord

NOVEMBER 29 - Advent Season



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

October 2020 Session Highlights

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The following notes are highlights from the meeting on October 27.

- The Session heard a devotional from Rev. Mackay Smith on the Goodness of God.
- Stewardship and Finance reported that as of the end of September tithes and offerings toward the church's general budget are at 67% of the annual budget. To date we have received \$627,545. This is ahead of the average of 63% (2015-19) our church has historically received by the end of September. Praise was given to God in prayer for His financial blessing.
- The proposed 2021 General Operating Budget was approved. A summary of the proposed budget and other information will be distributed to the members of FPC; copies of the full budget will be made available to any member upon request.
- The annual congregational meeting for 2020 will be on Sunday, December 13 at 11 am, following morning worship. Details will be communicated to the members in the weeks to come.
- A slate of nominees for the offices of elder and deacon was initially approved. The nominees will be contacted, interviewed, and verified by the November meeting of Session. The final, approved slate of nominees will be communicated to the congregation prior to the December 13 congregational meeting.
- A report was given regarding the October 22-23 meeting of the General Synod and the October 27 meeting of Florida Presbytery.
- The chairmen of the committees of the Session reported on the work and ministries they oversee. Prayer was offered after each report, asking for the Lord's guidance and blessing.
- A season of prayer was had for various needs within our congregation, community, and world.

Discipleship

POLITICS IN ITS PLACE

From Pastor Mackay

What criteria can we use to elect our leaders in a democratic republic? There are many answers. We might vote based on a party's policy platform or the personal integrity of a candidate. We may vote for a candidate we feel advances our preferences for the country. We may vote in a desire to keep a particular candidate out of office.

Is there a particular way Christians in a democratic republic should elect our leaders? The Bible gives clear ideas about how we are to engage with government leaders. We should pray for them (1 Tim 2:1-2) and pay taxes (Rom 13:6-7). We should recognize their authority and obey them, realizing all authority is from God (Rom 13:1). But, the Bible says nothing about voting. By God's providence, leaders weren't democratically elected when the Bible was written. Due to the Bible's silence, despite the loud cries of some Christians, any of the approaches above could be taken by a Christian in good conscience. We may make political points to each other about why a vote is better or worse than another, but one would be hard-pressed to claim biblically that a certain approach to voting is sinful.

Given all of this, we shouldn't be surprised to find that Christians are approaching this election in different ways. Due to our sinful hearts, we also shouldn't be surprised that these different approaches (particularly as they lead to differing voting decisions) can hinder us from expressing the blood-bought unity of God's people in Christ (1 Pet 3:8). Political issues have snagged at the church for centuries. In David McCollough's *John Adams*, I was struck by an argument made against Thomas Jefferson during his successful candidacy for president. His Christian opponents raised his atheism as a battle cry, arguing that if he were to be elected, family Bibles would need to be locked away to protect them from Jefferson's shock troops! To this day, we are prone to oversimplify and over-fear the goings-on of the political world. As we exercise our precious right to self-government, then let us do so carefully to maintain the love for one another to which we are called.

On one hand, don't deify a sinful candidate because of his political stance. The Bible tells us clearly not to put our trust in princes. (Ps 146:3) When our news media maintains ratings by painting political bumbblings with brushstrokes of apocalyptic magnitude, it is easy for us to drum up a narrative of an ultimate villain and an ultimate hero. Christians can take this to the next level by presuming that one candidate must be "God's man." Criticism from anyone, then, becomes heretical and blasphemous. This can lead to unfounded suspicion about our brothers and sisters in Christ when they point out "our" candidate's shortcomings. Why are they unfounded? Because we of all people should understand why no candidate will bring about our ultimate hopes. The Bible tells us so! Christians can and should prophetically (by which I mean, according to God's Word) point out the foibles of leaders even when making a political choice in their direction.

On the other hand, don't preemptively condemn fellow believers for supporting a sinful candidate. Recall that there is no solid biblical ground to make a stance on exactly what a vote signifies. Many Christians seem to think that the only way to maintain a faithful witness in the world is to vote for a candidate that non-Christians find palpable, or at least non-offensive. Underlying that approach seems to be a belief that a vote equals an endorsement of everything that a candidate is, not only their policies but also the person. I can't vote for candidate X because, in doing so, I approve of the various non-Christian behavior that candidate X exhibits. Yet, a fellow believer may see things differently. She may rightly criticize her candidate (see above) but view her vote as simply a means to her preferred policies. Is there room here for discussion among Christians? Yes. Is there room for condemnation among Christians? Biblically, the answer looks strongly like no.

It is good to support and care for our country. Yet, we must remember that God and country are not the same, and our ultimate allegiance must lie with God. Christians look beyond any human government to our gracious subscription into the Kingdom of God. Our life is hidden with Christ where God is (Col 3:2). Remember Jesus' words

Continues on page 5...

Continued from page 4...

in Mark 12 when he was questioned on paying taxes? Because Caesar's face was on the coin, Jesus reasoned, it was owed to Caesar. (We can pause here and reinforce that this means we can and should care about and support our country.) But, whose image is impressed upon us? On you? It is God's (Gen 1:26). Give to God what is owed to him, which is everything: all that you are, all that you have. If Christians live according to this calling, we will be able to keep politics in its place. Indeed, the God we serve transcends the rising and falling of nations. His purposes in their machinations are often mysterious, yet we know that all will work out for His glory and our good because of Jesus. Encourage one another with that truth today. ■

EKKLESIA

We will not meet on November 25 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

DISCIPLESHIP PODCASTS

We currently offer three programs to listen to throughout the week! A new episode of *Bring the Books!* is posted each Wednesday morning; the Ekklesia Adult Bible Study message is posted weekly; and *Nourished and Knit Together*, a show especially for small group leaders, is posted once each month. These short audio programs are available on our church website, or you can find the podcast by searching "FPCLW" on the Apple Podcasts app and Spotify.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

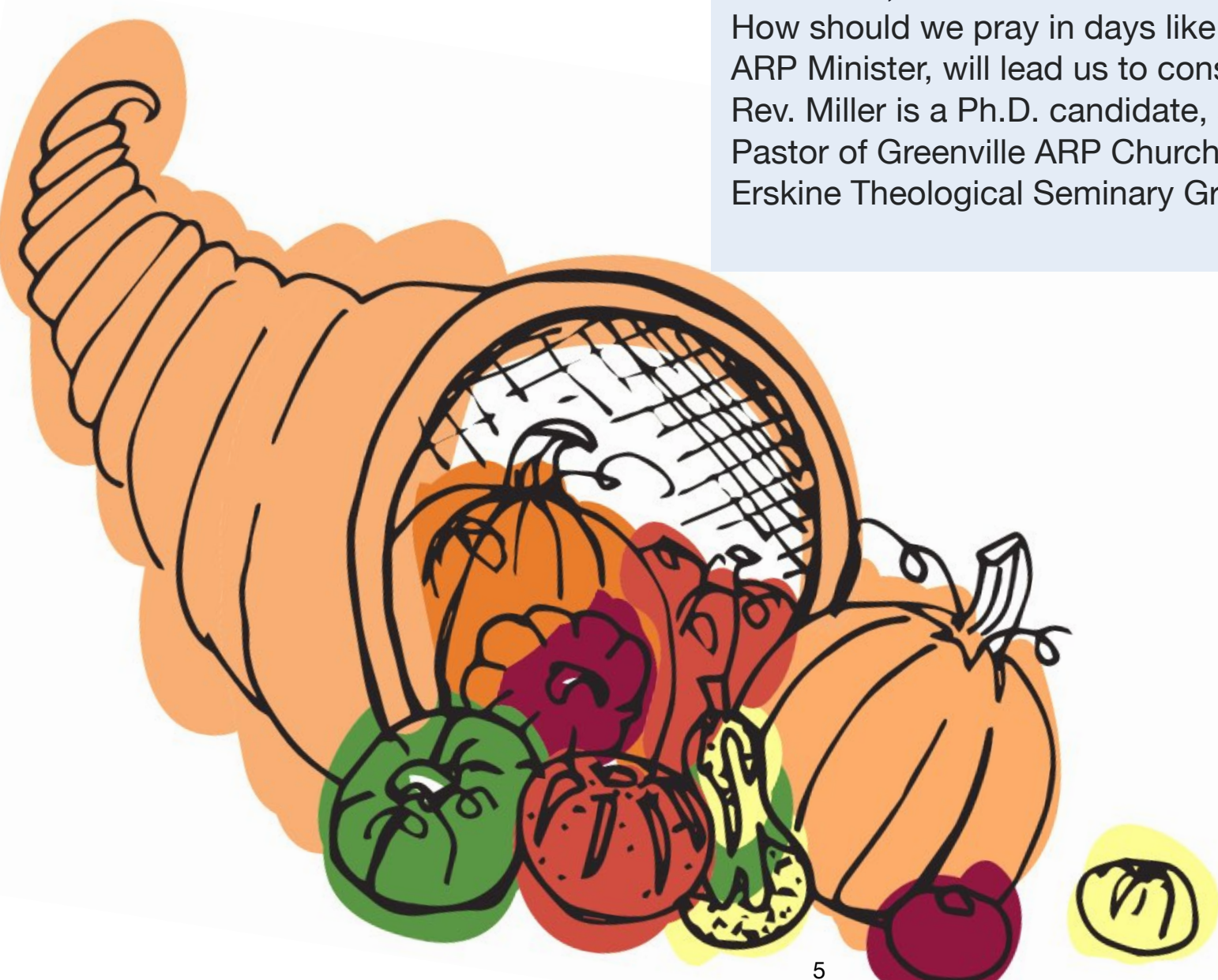
Our next Small Group Leader Meeting on Zoom is Sunday, November 8, at 5 pm on Zoom. Keep an eye out for materials to help with our discussion.

DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND

Save the Date!

Feb 12-14, 2021

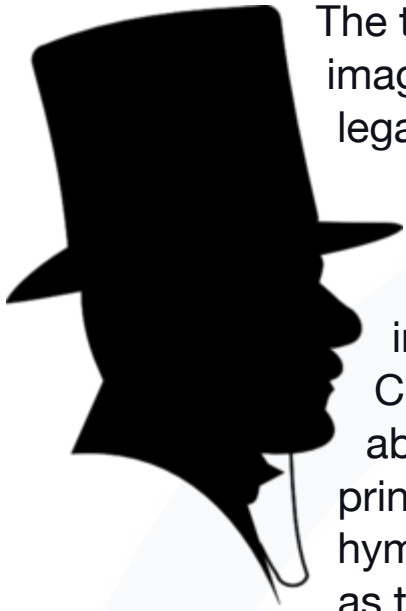
How should we pray in days like these? Rev. Matt Miller, ARP Minister, will lead us to consider our life in prayer! Rev. Miller is a Ph.D. candidate, and has served as Senior Pastor of Greenville ARP Church and in leadership of the Erskine Theological Seminary Greenville, SC campus.



Music Ministry

VICTORIAN AGE HYMNODY (CA. 1837-1906)

From Vince Treadway



The term “Victorian” may invoke images of black clothing, legalism, squelched creativity, and negativity, but for hymnody nothing could be further from the truth. It was instead a time of revival in the Church of England when social abuses were fought, and the printing of new hymns and hymnals was greatly increasing as the printing press evolved.

With improvements in sanitation, clean water supplies, and improved medical care, populations were growing rapidly, so the demand for new hymns and hymnals increased, as well. Below are a few examples of great hymns that are from the Victorian period. I will give examples from the *Trinity Hymnal* so that you can easily look them up and read the texts.

Frederick William Faber (1814-1865) was educated at Balliol University in 1832 and, although he had a tendency to Calvinism, became a Catholic priest. He served churches in Littlemore, Northampton, and Birmingham, to name a few. He composed his hymns specifically for his use in his churches. His hymns were known for being theologically sound and having strong devotional elements. *My God How Wonderful Thou Art*, hymn 35, was originally titled *Our Heavenly Father* and has eight verses which are mixed-up in the *Trinity Hymnal*, and verses six and eight are missing.

*How wonderful, how beautiful, the sight of thee will be,
thine endless wisdom, boundless power, and awesome purity!*

Another well-known hymn by Faber is *Faith of Our Fathers*, hymn 570.

*Faith of our fathers! we will love both friend
and foe in all our strife,
and preach thee, too, as love knows how by
witness true and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true
to thee till death.*

Authors Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) penned the great hymn *Crown Him with Many Crowns*, hymn 295. The *Trinity Hymnal* contains all verses by Bridges, with the exception of the final phrases of verse four (actually verse five) beginning with *All hail, Redeemer, hail . . .* which is from Thring. Verses two and six by Bridges are missing.

*Crown him the Lord of love: behold his hands
and side, rich wounds, yet visible above, in
beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at
mysteries so bright.*

Henry Francis Lyte (1703-1847) was an Anglican priest who was “unusually handsome, eccentric, very kind and knowledgeable, and devout.” He was married and had five children. He worked hard to help his parishioners remain devout by supplying them with Bibles and devotional guides. His poor health forced him to travel to warmer climates and finally resulted in his early death. One of his most famous hymns is *Abide with Me: Fast Falls the Eventide*, hymn 402.

*Abide with me: fast falls the eventide; the
darkness deepens: Lord with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

My final example of Victorian hymnody is author, William Walsham How (1823-97). How was an English bishop who was known for his relentless work on behalf of the poor and children. He published several commentaries on Scripture and several collections of verse. His hymn, *For All the Saints*, hymn 358, was originally titled, *The Procession of Faith* and contains eleven verses. The *Trinity Hymnal* has six verses 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, and 11.

*For all the saints who from their labor rest,
who thee by faith before the world
confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia!
Alleluia!*

I would invite you to take a look at other Victorian hymn writers such as Thomas Lynch, Sabine Baring-Gould, Folliott Pierpoint, and Robert Bridges for more great texts. Our hymnal is a treasure-trove of great lyrics! ■

High School & Middle School

THE “WHY” AND THE “HOW” QUESTIONS

From Shane Miller

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.' Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

- Luke 14:28-32

In this text, Jesus uses the illustrations of tower building and kings going to war in order to make a point about the necessity of counting the cost of discipleship. In doing so, he puts forward a simple idea: before one sets out to do something (especially if it's something big), it would be fitting to have a purpose and thought behind that something before that something is done or put into action. Without prior examination and evaluation, building projects remain unfinished and a battalion of troops become slaughtered upon the battlefield. This being the case, the 'why' and the 'how' questions can almost become as important as the work itself; they can become the difference between a triumphant victory and a bloodied loss, a glorious monument and an embarrassing half-attempt of a building.

With this truth in mind, it's important for us as a local body to ask (and answer) the 'why' and the 'how' questions when it comes to youth ministry. Why do we have a youth ministry at First Pres Lake Wales? What is the purpose of that ministry? Assuming that the ministry has a purpose, how are we to carry out that purpose? These are crucial questions to ask as we seek to do youth ministry as a church. Answering

these questions will give us clarity in the mission Christ has called us to regarding the discipling of young people at First Pres. And as Jesus' illustration conveys, carrying out that mission with purpose can only positively affect the outcome of that mission.

I write this because I am very happy and excited to present to you the (session approved) vision and goals of the youth ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales. This vision and the goals that go with them are the product of much youth ministry thought and research I have done over the past three years of my ministry. My plan is to unpack some of that information for you in the next several *Diligent* articles, but for now, I want to present it for you to read. My prayer is that this vision and these goals can help bring clarity in our mission, and with clarity, a passion for glorifying Jesus Christ as we disciple the students of First Pres. Please pray for me, our youth leaders, and our elders, deacons, and our church body as we seek to carry out this vision together to the end that our students might believe and live out the gospel of Jesus Christ. ■



FPCLW YOUTH MINISTRY VISION

Vision Statement: The youth ministry of First Presbyterian Church in Lake Wales seeks to disciple High School and Middle School students and their families by educating, engaging, and equipping them with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- The Youth Ministry, in submission to the plurality of elders at First Pres Lake Wales is to do the following:
 - To be committed to:
 - First and foremost, conveying the gospel of the grace of God in Jesus Christ to our young people in word and deed,
 - Building discipleship bridges between the young people of First Presbyterian Church in Lake Wales to that of the larger church body, **(Discipleship)**
 - Building discipleship bridges between First Presbyterian Church in Lake Wales and the unreached young people of Lake Wales, **(Evangelism)**
 - Building discipleship bridges between our students and the larger community in acts of service, **(Servanthood)**
 - All to the end that our young people might enjoy God and glorify Him forever. **(Worship)**
- The means by which the Youth Ministry of First Presbyterian Church in Lake Wales carries out its mission are:
 - **“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching...”**- The preaching and teaching of the Word of God, with an emphasis on the gospel of Jesus, to the students of FPCLW.
 - **“... and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”**- Creating a gospel- centered, culture of community among the students of FPCLW through fellowship and hospitality.
 - **“And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”**- Creating opportunities for worship for the students of FPCLW through connecting students to the larger body of First Pres while also training them in a general way for a life of worship to God.
 - **“And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”**- Creating opportunities of service for students at FPCLW through regular community service events while also equipping students for ministry to the larger church body of First Pres.
 - **“And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”**- Creating opportunities of evangelism for the students of FPCLW and to the young people of Lake Wales through local and world missions.

Children's Ministry

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD: TO BLEED BIBLE

From Kelly Harrington

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

-Hebrews 4:12

"I want to bleed Bible." These are not my words; they are the opening words of the article, "The Bible is a Big Book with Lots of Words," written by Jared C. Wilson (reference below). Wilson said, "I want, when somebody cuts me open, my guts to spill out in Bible verses." These are not very gentle words, but they did an excellent job of grabbing my attention and profoundly expressing my desire to be so filled with God's Word that it just oozes out of me. I am not there yet!

Less shocking than his opening words, Wilson's article is about looking back at an ever-lengthening church history of Christians who know Bible verses but "do not portray the wisdom of the Word...leaving us biblically savvy but not biblically wise." Unfortunately, we see the evidence of this in the world of memes and posts where scripture is used as free quotes and tweets to punctuate experiences, feelings, and stresses more than it used to influence choices and relationships with biblical wisdom. How much better it is to live, however, in the knowledge and obedience of God's Word (Deut 6:4-9), to delight in it as much as a psalmist (Psalm 119), and to allow it to shape the thoughts, feelings, and attitudes of our hearts (Heb 4:12). Then, we might bleed Bible!

Thank the Lord for his church and for leaders who teach and preach so that we can grow in the knowledge and understanding of his Word! But, as we have seen this past year, our ability to gather as a church for worship and discipleship was quickly added to the growing list of uncertainties. The church closed, and we found ourselves in a space we had never known before! When services and Sunday school were canceled, Bible studies suspended, and small groups could not gather in person, the

responsibility of our personal discipleship was instantly turned up several notches.

One of my greatest concerns was and still is for the discipleship of our children. Like with school, the cancellations of weekly classes (i.e., Ekklesia & Sunday school) placed a greater responsibility on the shoulders of already-busy parents to carry the discipleship of their children the Bible without the regular, in-person support of the church. While I posted lessons and activities for our families to use at home on our Children's Ministry page, I prayed (and still do) that our parents would not only find and use the resources but the time and energy to continue training their children in God's Word. Only by God's grace can we accomplish all that he has called us to do (2 Cor 12:9).

I am thankful that we have started to meet together for Ekklesia Kidz on Wednesday evening and look forward to beginning Sunday school on Nov 8. It is great to learn the Bible together again! However, one of the easiest ways for our families to dig into the Bible at home during these ever-changing and uncertain times is through Triple Play, our children's ministry discipleship program designed to help our children gain Scripture memorization, Bible knowledge, and catechism training. Triple Play gives students Bible knowledge that will begin to shape their understanding of God, the life of Jesus, the work of the Holy Spirit, and know his Word! If you have children at home, please begin or begin again working your way through the Triple Play booklet! If you do not have children at home, there is a place for you as a Triple Play coach to encourage our kids and help our parents. The best part about it is that this program that can continue despite possible closures and cancellations, allowing our kids to continue to grow as disciples of Christ no matter what! My hope is that one day, our kids will bleed Bible! You can find a Triple Play booklet to download on the Children's Ministry page of our church website or contact me for more information.

Ref: Wilson, J. C. (2020) The Bible is a book with lots of words. Retrieved from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/jared-c-wilson/the-bible-is-a-big-book-with-lots-of-words/> ■

MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

November 1, Jennifer Fugate
November 1, Karen Allen
November 2, Jake Cockrell
November 4, Deeley Hunt
November 6, Lawrence Maxwell
November 6, Susan Ebel
November 8, Dayle Dierks
November 8, Niven Owings
November 8, Ellie Lippert
November 9, Pam Estes
November 9, Madison Campbell
November 12, Autumn Miller
November 12, Luciana Abele
November 13, Shelley Paros
November 14, Leah Gibson
November 16, Tabatha Smith
November 17, Jonah Hershberger
November 18, Susan Coyne
November 18, Jane Terry
November 19, Jim Weaver
November 21, Eva Michalkiewicz
November 22, Molly Ann Lewis
November 22, Loren Furland
November 22, Jake Friend
November 23, Shelley Underwood
November 23, Jo Garrett
November 23, Susan Lamar
November 28, Rose Belcher
November 29, Jim Underwood
November 29, Esther Lippert
November 30, Rebecca Youmans
November 30, John Grimes
November 30, Cortland Kohl
November 30, Nancy Turnquist

ANNIVERSARIES

November 10, Scott & Angie Crews
November 17, Rick & Penny Wright
November 17, Aaron & Kaitlyn Nelson
November 18, Rob & Dawn McCollum
November 19, Daniel & Adrijana Hunt
November 20, Rob & Janet Thullbery
November 23, Dick & Dottie Bailey

Sunday Morning Nursery and Youth & Children's Sunday School to Begin on

November 8: Sunday morning nursery care will be available for babies through three years old for worship and small group times and children's (PreK-5th Grade) and youth (middle school & high school) Sunday school classes will be held at 11 am. Each of these ministries will follow the FPC Safe-Gathering Guidelines (updated earlier this month), which are posted on our church website or available through the church office.

2021 Church Budget Pledge Sundays: The 2021 proposed church budget has been initially approved by the deacons and elders. You will soon receive a summary of it by mail, along with a pledge card to make a commitment of support for the coming year. Congregational pledges will be offered during worship on November 15 and 22. Copies of the full proposed budget are available upon request and will be voted on for approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 13.

Lake Wales Care Center Thanksgiving and

Christmas Food Drive: The Lake Wales Care Center has placed two barrels for food collection for their holiday food drive on our campus: one is in the narthex and one is in the Missions Lobby in the Family Life Center. Please deposit only non-perishable food items in these barrels. Items needed most are: canned ham/meats, canned fruit, flour/corn meal, sugar/sweetener, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, pasta, and instant potatoes. Food donations can be placed in the barrels from now until just before Christmas; LWCC will collect donations from us throughout the season.

Hanging of the Greens: Beautiful decorations during Advent remind us that we are in a different season of the year, one in which our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for the most wonderful gift of His son, Jesus Christ. Perhaps one of the first gifts to give this season is the gift of your time to help us prepare the church for Christmas. Please join us, if you are able, to help decorate on Saturday, November 28 at 9:30 a.m.



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales
 16 N 3rd St, Lake Wales, FL 33853
 Phone: 863.676.0711
www.fpclw.org

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

2020	2022
John Dubois	Frank Hunt III
Stewart Hurst	John Matteson
Ed Lamb	Vince Treadway
Fox Rawlings	2023
2021	Scott Crews
Mike Berkau	Doug Pace
Paul Benner	

DEACONS

2020	2022
David Bass	Bea Meeker
Lynne Hulen	Aaron Nelson
Rob McCollum	Mary Youmans
David Kennedy Nelson	
2021	
David Caldwell	
Michael Kahler	
Carl McCollum	
Tony Thomas	

Moderator: Rev. Chad Reynolds
Vice Moderator: Rev. Mackay Smith
Clerk of Session: Ed Lamb
Chairman of Deacons: Rob McCollum
Deacon Secretary: David Kennedy Nelson
Chm. of the Congregation: Jake Cockrell
Treasurer: Michelle Hurst (2020-2021)
Asst. Treasurer: Daniel Hunt (2020-2021)