



OCTOBER 2022

ISSUE 22-10

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

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Leadership

THOUGHTS ON SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

From Pastor Mackay

Anticipating the Bridge: Europe visit team heading overseas very soon, I wonder if you have considered participating in a short-term mission trip? I give thanks for our church's rich history as active trip-takers (there may be a group photo from an ARP Wales trip in the mid-2000's featuring both Rachel and I... 5 years before we met). God has also seen fit to bless me with the opportunity to take part in several mission efforts, both in the USA and overseas. It's a worthy effort for a church to make.

There has been a fashionable, and probably healthy skepticism about short-term trips in the American church in recent years (see books like *Toxic Charity* and *When Helping Hurts*). It is true that large travel and lodging expenses must be prayerfully weighed, considering how those resources might be better used, and staying focussed on God's purposes for the church. When they are done well, however, benefits abound! Consider a few thoughts from my past experience.

I can say quite confidently that the last thing a missionary wants you to think about them is that they are some sort of "super Christian." All believers are sinners, saved by grace. All of us are seeking to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called. Yet, it is God's design to encourage us through his work in others (see Philippians 1), and mission trips provide an intense opportunity to see other believers living out their faith in a focussed way. Perhaps the biggest encouragement can be a cure from the, "I could never..." syndrome. Christians are tempted to think, "I want to live for Jesus, but *I could never...*" Mission trips can remind us that the God who enables other believers to do mighty things for him is the same God who gives grace to you. You may not be called to full-time mission work, but what God does call you to do, you are able to do in him!

And, what a joy to practice those things on a mission team. Trips provide focussed times of service where deep friendship and trust can be

forged. Many of these friendships continue in my life to this day. What a gift from the Lord!

Speaking of focus, it is never bad to focus explicitly on faith and on consistently living the Christian life for a period of time. Yes, there are dangers in seeking constant "mountaintop" experiences which have little impact on our "normal" lives, but such times can help us. They can confront us with big questions. Why am I so careless with my words in "normal" life? Why can't I find time to serve in my local church? Why can I share the Gospel so openly with these children, but struggle to do so with my own children at home? Why do I think I need constant social media/news/digital stimulation when this week away from them has been so refreshing?

Trips can also help by confronting us with "sink or swim" choices. I recall once in Turkey when I was (shamefully) embarrassed to take part in a "prayer walk," which is simply walking around an area and praying aloud for God's Gospel to go forward there. Yet, the context forced me into it...and what a blessing it was! To this day, I take times of walking to pray for the people and community around me.

A highlight of many trips is a Sunday worship service, which reminds us of the worldwide applicability of the Gospel of Jesus. Worshipping Jesus carries no cultural component with it. Christians have a timeless word, but it is a word that can be spoken in any language, accompanied by any style of music, and proclaimed to every tribe, tongue, and nation! It is good to have our "normal" stripped away in order to gain a broader perspective of God's work in the world.

And what is God doing in the world? He is saving his people, and preparing them for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. Mission trips provide not just a perspective on Gospel work elsewhere, but a perspective on the struggles and pain of elsewhere. What a joy, then, to be reminded of the second coming of Jesus. At his coming, there will be no more sin and no more death. The unity of all believers will be made

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ultimately manifest in Him. Praise God that such a day is coming, and pray that we can carry the Gospel message to our families, to Lake Wales, to Florida, and around the world!

Please pray for our trip this month, and pray that the Lord might call you to a trip in the future. ■



PRAYER FOCUS

- OCTOBER 2 - Church Universal
- OCTOBER 9 - Bridge Europe Visit Team
- OCTOBER 16 - Ministries of Our Church
- OCTOBER 23 - Florida Presbytery
- OCTOBER 30 - Stewardship

Associate Pastor Search

Associate Pastor for Family Discipleship Search Update

Pray this month for:

The committee, as they meet on October 3rd. That God would continue to grow and equip us to minister to one another as we search for an Associate pastor. That God's will be done! ■

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The following are highlights from the meeting on September 26.

- The Session continued a study of *The Shepherd Leader* by Timothy Witmer.
- Needs of the congregation were shared, and a time of prayer was held for the people and ministries of our church.
- John and Marie Steensma, associate members, were accepted into full membership by transfer of letter.
- The Session continues to prayerfully consider a strategy of forming Shepherding Groups.
- A concept from Discipleship Committee was approved to begin a "Friday Fellowship Dinners" program, with the purpose of building relationships across our denomination.
- Evangelism and Outreach committee is working hard on a number of initiatives to engage our community with the Gospel, including the next Tapestry Tea on October 29.
- Patrick Daugherty, Director of Youth Ministry at Bartow ARP and student under care of Florida Presbytery, was approved for pulpit supply on October 9.
- Stewardship and Finance reported from their September 13th meeting. As of the end of July, YTD giving was \$591,120 against YTD expenses of \$526,491. The Operating Fund balance was \$258,511. ■

Discipleship



Adult Small Groups

Name and Location	Leaders	Current Topic
8:15 Small Group <i>Small Conference Room</i>	Andy Hunt Frank Hunt III	God's Exceptional Choice <i>Meeting at 8:15am</i>
Faithworks <i>Gym Classroom C</i>	Doug Pace	Sermon Discussion
In Depth <i>Choir Room</i>	Vince Treadway	<i>Living in the Gap Between Promise and Reality: The Gospel According to Abraham</i> By Iain Duguid
Seekers in Action <i>Lecture Hall A (Rm 294)</i>	Laura Hunt	Galatians
The Hub <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	David Nelson	Sermon Discussion
Upper Room <i>Gym Classroom A</i>	John Dubois John Steensma	Reformation Theology

ROCK ON WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall

Join us for our weekly mid-week Discipleship Program

6:00pm - Family Supper

6:30pm - Announcements/Dismissal of Children and Youth on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

6:45pm - Program

7:25pm - Dismissal

Weekly Rotation

1st Wednesdays - **Potluck and Fellowship** (meat and dessert is provided; bring a side dish to share!)

2nd Wednesdays - **Breakout Night** Class options

3rd Wednesdays - **Prayer Meeting and Singing**

4th Wednesdays - **Bible Study**

Rock on Wednesday does not meet on 5th Wednesdays.

Want to help?

Contact David Nelson

(Discipleship Committee chair)
if you'd like to help with...

- Kitchen crew/clean-up
- Children's programming
- Fellowship Night programs

Missions & Outreach

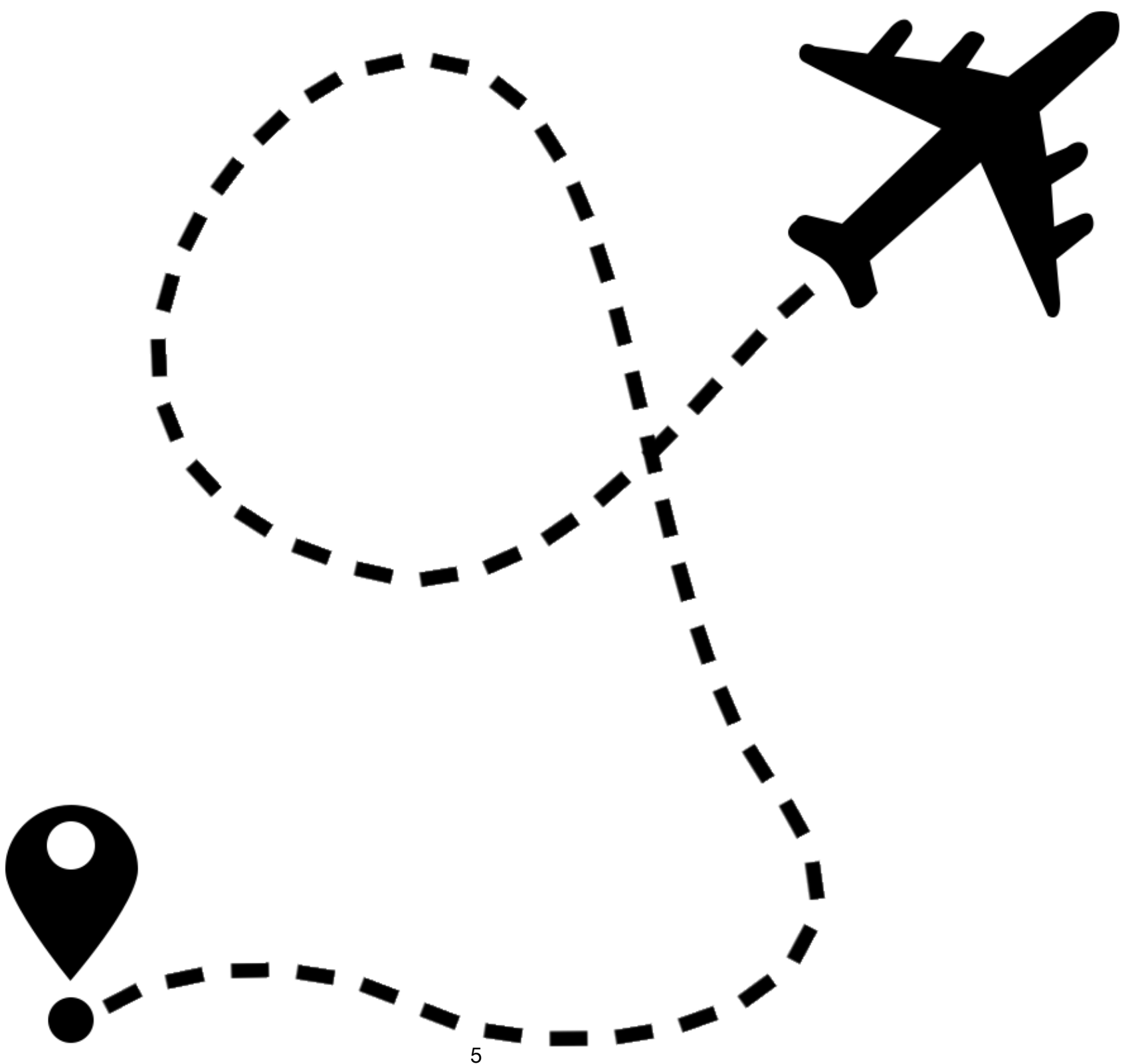
BRIDGE EUROPE VISIT TEAM

France and Germany
October 4-12

God has orchestrated a great agenda which is allowing our team to make contact with at least five missionary families. Our team will get a better grasp of the Bridge Europe ministry efforts (including new efforts in Germany) to share with our church, and will brainstorm with missionaries about future involvement of our church on the field.

Please pray:

- For God to be glorified and Jesus to be magnified!
- For our missionaries to be encouraged by this expression of our support
- For our church to continue to support our missionaries financially and in prayer
- For our team to get a clear picture of God's work through the Bridge Europe team, and to communicate this well to our church
- For safe travel for our team ■



Music Ministry

SIR ARTHUR SEYMOUR SULLIVAN

From Vince Treadway

Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900) is probably best known for his musical works in collaboration with William Schwenck Gilbert (1836-1911) and their musical theater compositions including *Trial by Jury*, *The Zoo*, *The HMS Pinafore*, *Patience*, *The Mikado*, and *The Gondaliers*, to name a few.

Sullivan was born in Lambeth, London, and his father, Thomas, was a bandmaster at the Royal Military College in Sandhurst and professor of brass instruments at the Royal Military School of Music in Kneller Hall. He became a chorister at the Chapel Royal in 1854 and remained there until 1858. He began composing at an early age, and his first sacred song, *O Israel*, was published by Novello when he was 13 years old. He became organist at St. Michael's in Chester Square, and then later held a similar position at St. Peter's in Cranley Gardens. He taught music privately and composed many drawing-room songs.

In 1866 Sullivan embarked on a collaboration with F. C. Burnand (1836-1917) on the popular comedy called *Box and Cox*. It was this experience that brought about the discovery of his talent for comic opera. It was in 1869 that he was introduced to Gilbert, and the popularity of their comic operas grew and became hugely successful. However, Sullivan became disillusioned with his work with Gilbert, and longed to write "serious" music.

Unfortunately he was not successful with his stage, choral, orchestral, and chamber works. He did write quite a few hymn tunes, and several of them are included in

our *Trinity Hymnal*; 266 *St. Kevin*; 399 *Samuel*; and probably his best known, *St. Gertrude* 439 which is a setting of the hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers*.

Near the end of Sullivan's life, his collaboration with Gilbert resumed, and together they wrote *Utopia Unlimited* and *The Grand Duke*; neither of which were very successful. Sullivan's final work, *The Emerald Isle*, was left unfinished by Sullivan at his death, and was completed by Edward German. ■

SAVE THE DATE

Ball Brothers Concert
Wednesday, November 30th at 7pm



Family Ministry

Opportunities abound for all ages to learn from God's Word!
Contact a pastor, elder, or a teacher for more information!

Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School

"Living Together"

September Teachers

October 2nd - Katie Lippert and Becky Steverson

October 9th - Katie Lippert and Becky Steverson

October 16th - Angie Crews and Patti Falk

October 23rd - Rachel Smith and Danielle Miller

October 30th - Rachel Smith and Danielle Miller

YOUTH MINISTRY

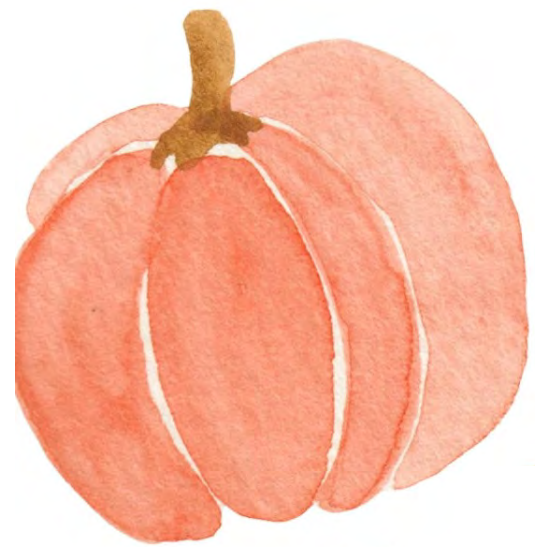
Middle & High School



DODGEBALL DINNER & DEVOTIONS

Our students met with students from Frostproof and Bartow ARP churches to fellowship, hear a message from our denominational institution (Erskine College), and hear God's Word together.

Pictures on page 7.



MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

October 2, Sue Dolan
October 5, Margaret Hunt
October 7, Rob Thullbery
October 7, Carter Ullman
October 7, David Ullman
October 10, Ashley Cockrell
October 12, Annelise Smith
October 13, Kaitlyn Nelson
October 14, Judith Adams
October 15, Joe Martin
October 16, Maxcy Henry
October 18, Teresa Bass
October 18, Kathleen Krpata
October 19, Catherine Ullman
October 21, Harry Nelson
October 22, Bea Meeker
October 22, John Yarbrough
October 23, Sara Grace Freeland
October 24, Jan Kahler
October 24, Dana Lewis
October 27, Milford Myrrh
October 31, Jeffery Herman

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary & Paul Benner, October 7
Kay & Charles Clegg, October 19
Bea & Bob Meeker, October 22
Judith & Larry Adams, October 24

Church Family



Tapestry Tea Luncheon

TO BENEFIT THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY
OF THE LAKE WALES CARE CENTER

*Please join us for a time of
fellowship, refreshment and servanthood.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29th
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

FOYER OF FELLOWSHIP HALL
16 N. 3rd Street
Lake Wales, FL

R.s.v.p. by October 15th
TAPESTRYTEA@GMAIL.COM
(863)528-3475

Please indicate:
-Number of ladies and young ladies (ages 4 and up)
attending
-If nursery care will be needed for infants to age 3

~A love offering will be received~



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

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

2022

Frank Hunt III
 John Matteson
 Vince Treadway

2024

Daniel Hunt
 David Nelson
 Andy Hunt

2023

Scott Crews
 Doug Pace
 David Falk

2025

Tony Woods

DEACONS

2022

Bea Meeker
 Aaron Nelson
 Laura Hunt

2024

Leah Gibson
 Dan Miller
 Randy Shear

2023

Susan Coyne
 Bob Hulen
 Michael Matteson
 Karla Campbell

Moderator: Rev. Mackay Smith

Clerk of Session: Frank Hunt III

Chairman of Deacons: Aaron Nelson

Deacon Secretary: Susan Coyne

Chm. of the Congregation: Jim Weaver

Treasurer: Michelle Hurst

Asst. Treasurer: Daniel Hunt