

JANUARY 2024



Siesta Key Chapel
God's Treehouse



Key Notes

NEWSLETTER

4615 GLEASON AVE, SIESTA KEY ■ 941-349-1166 ■ SiestaKeyChapel.org

From the Pastor's Desk



Christmas Eve services shone with the Light of Christ as the children and youth held their glow sticks high during the Live Nativity, and the adults gazed in wonder and gratitude at their flickering candles as we sang *Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright*.

On Epiphany Sunday, January 7, we celebrate the Light of the World with the arrival of the Magi and the radiance of the Bethlehem star.

In this **season of Epiphany**, which continues for six weeks until Lent, we joyfully share Christ's light through our participation in the mission and ministry of Siesta Key Chapel.

Theologian Karl Barth writes, "**Gratitude follows grace** like thunder follows lightning." When you and I recognize God's grace in our lives or in this world, we respond with gratitude. This is what Christians do. Yet if we fail to engage with the gifts we are given—including our Christian heritage lived out in lively and relevant ways together in our family of faith here at Siesta Key Chapel—we may easily defer to the darkness in the world rather than living in an attitude of gratitude as our response to grace. In the month of January, we have **abundant opportunities** to follow the light of Christ, as we continue to **learn and apply our faith to our daily lives**.

The light of Christ is ablaze among us in January!

Bible Study, Wednesdays Jan. 3 & 17 (10:00am)

Adult Christian Education, Sundays Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 (9:30am)

New Member Class, Sunday Jan. 7 (11:30am)

Men's Fellowship, Tuesday Jan. 23 (8:00am)

All-Church Brunch, Sunday Jan. 28 (12:00noon)

Knit & Sew, Tuesday Feb. 13 (9:30am)

Volunteer opportunities are a wonderful way to meet new people and become invested in the joyful life and ministry of Siesta Key Chapel. **Office helpers, scripture readers, ushers, funeral reception hosts, bulletin board designers, Welcome Desk greeters, Fellowship coordinator, Flower Board maintainer, and Communion preparers** are just a few of the ways SKC welcomes your participation. Please let the Office know if you are feeling the nudge to lend a hand in gratitude and joy.

And if Joyce Tucker taps you on the shoulder for a conversation about joining a committee that could use your skill set, please listen carefully, both to Joyce and to the Holy Spirit. Because oftentimes, that's how **the Holy Spirit connects us** in deeper ways to Christ's mission and ministry that grow us spiritually... **by a loving tap on the shoulder.**

This season of Epiphany, **may we wholeheartedly welcome the light of Christ into our lives**, both individually and as a worshiping community. May we find joy at the growing presence of the Light in our midst. **May we faithfully follow where that light leads us this new year.**

*"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it."
(John 1:5)*

*Joyfully,
Pastor Ruth*



MEMBERSHIP - Margie Kraft

Please welcome our new members to Siesta Key Chapel.

*Full
Members*



Margo & Andy Dufresne



Kim Flerlage



Mary Metzler



Robin & John Shobert



Sherry Zoller

*Affiliate
Members*



Lora Lyn Frederick



Mary Martin

Kim Flerlage has lived in Sarasota for over 30 years. She has two sons: Dalton, who works for the Baltimore Orioles and Ravens in Baltimore; and Drew who lives in Sarasota and often worships at *Chapel on the Beach*. Kim is a para-aide at Fruitville Elementary.

Mary Metzler has lived on Siesta Key for 20 years, and her parents for 37 years. Mary's career was in the car industry; currently she is driving for a private limo company. She was baptized Presbyterian in Michigan.

Lora Lyn Frederick, Linda McDonald's daughter, has been caring for Linda and worshipping at SKC this past year. Lora Lyn's husband Sean and two grown children visit regularly. Lora Lyn grew up in Atlanta, South Carolina, and overseas.

Mary Martin grew up in the Buffalo area, married a Brit, and lived in France for 50 years. Her career was in Geneva, Switzerland in UNICEF. Now retired, she has a practice as a holistic life coach. Her two children live in Chicago and Connecticut; Mary is awaiting identical twin grandchildren to be born this spring.

Sherry Zoller and her husband were married on Siesta Key's Turtle Beach; they have lived here 5 years, prior to lives and careers in Greenville, SC. Sherry was an administrative assistant and also has the unique resume listing of Zoo Keeper at the Greenville Zoo!

Margo and Andy Dufresne are both originally from Boston, and eventually settled in Philadelphia, where Andy's career was in construction and Margo's in commercial real estate. They recently designed and built their house near The Ringling, and delight in peacocks running around their neighborhood.

John & Robin Shobert moved to Sarasota year-round 1 1/2 years ago. Their daughter & her family live on Siesta Key and their granddaughter attends ODA. Both Robin & John have joined the SKC Choir and sang in our Christmas Eve services. Robin was a School Counselor and enjoys knitting and other needlework. John was in Human Resources and enjoys Pickleball, Skeet Shooting and fishing.



New Members Are Joining

New Member Class
Sunday, January 7, 2024

11:30am Classroom 4

Light lunch included

RSVP: Margie Kraft 941-323-5900

membership@SiestaKeyChapel.org

Pastor Ruth 941-349-1166

Rev.RuthSmalt@SiestaKeyChapel.org

CHAPEL ON THE BEACH - Rick Chenoweth

Find **faith and fellowship** at *Chapel on the Beach* every Sunday at 9:00am. The half-hour contemporary service offers a variety of music and musicians, scripture, prayer and an inspiring message, along with free coffee and bakery. Join us, and invite your friends and neighbors to meet at the beach on Sunday mornings. All are welcome to join in the joy of worshipping God in nature at Patriots/Sunset Pier, Avenida Messina & Beach Rd.

Christmas Eve 2023



*Advent Services
at the Beach*



MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST - Conner Stigner



First and foremost, abundant gratitude to all who made our Christmas services such a resounding success! To all of our musicians, Dr. Zach Johnson; Barry and our tech team; Karen, Pastor Ruth, and all of the wonderful volunteers- Thank You!

I'd also like to take a moment to bid a hearty welcome to several new choir members in our ranks that joined in all of our Christmas choir rehearsals with vim, vigor, and verve. Welcome to Sam Tucker and Robin Shobert and her husband John Shobert. Many thanks for your time spent with us.

With that said, we will resume rehearsals on January 31st in preparation for Lent and Easter. We meet Wednesday mornings at 9:30AM in the SKC Music Room. The more the merrier. We pride ourselves on the musical diversity of our program that runs the gamut from standard hymns, to Jazz, to Rock, to Sacred Classical. We will be diving more into utilizing our handbells this season. No experience is necessary. All are welcome. There is a place for you! See you there!

-Conner

How does King Wenceslas like his pizza?
Deep Pan, Crisp and Even!



BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & TECHNOLOGY - Barry Cline

Happy New Year!

December was very busy prepping for the regular Beach and Sunday Services in addition to the two Christmas Eve services. I'm thankful for all the help from staff and volunteers that made this year's Christmas experience operate as smoothly as possible!



Going into the new year, SKC needs to replace two members of the A/V tech team who are moving on. Tom is now going to school in Montana and Chris will be taking a break in the new year to focus on his Real Estate work. I'd like to get one or two people trained and working as part of a weekly rotation as soon as possible as there is only Gabe and myself available. Here is a brief description of the work requirements:

Siesta Key Chapel Audio/Video Technician

Audio Tech involves mixing voice and instruments using a Behringer Digital Mixing Console with additional iPad control.

Video Tech production involves utilizing SKC's YouTube Channel Streaming service with an 8 port Black Magic Video Switch and OBS PC Software.

Regular Paid Hours are Sunday Mornings 10am-12noon plus options for additional events such as Weddings, Funerals, Concerts etc. No experience necessary; only an interest in Audio and Video Production. All training is paid.

If you or someone you know is interested or has questions, please have them contact me via email at **Barry@SiestaKeyChapel.org** or call my cell at **919.612.6610**

Thanks!
Barry

IT A/V Building & Grounds Manager



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR Church Office Closed	2	3 10am Bible Study 7pm Ukulele Group	4	5	6 2pm Funeral McCallaster & Bispham
7 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel with Communion 11:30am New Member Class	8	9 6:30pm NA	10 5:30pm Girl Scouts Parents Meeting 7pm Ukulele Group	11 7pm AA	12 3pm Wanda Wilson Memorial Service	13 11am Brehm Committal 1pm Laurence Funeral
14 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel 11:30am Cal Owen Committal	15	16 6:30pm NA	17 10am Bible Study 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Ukulele Group	18 7pm AA	19	20
21 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel 11:45am Officer Training	22	23 8am Men's Fellowship 4pm Session 6:30pm NA	24 7pm Ukulele Group	25 7pm AA	26	27
28 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel 11:15am Congregational Meeting 12noon All-Church Brunch	29	30 6:30pm NA	31 7pm Ukulele Group			

February

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel with Communion	5	6 6:30pm NA	7 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Ukulele Group	8 7pm AA	9	10
11 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	12	13 9:30am Knit & Sew 3pm SK Condo Assoc. meeting 6:30pm NA	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 10am Bible Study 12noon Ash Wednesday Service 7pm Ukulele Group	15 7pm AA	16	17
18 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel 2pm Sandy Hook Neighborhood Meeting	19	20 6:30pm NA	21 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Ukulele Group	22 Presbytery at Trinity in Venice 7pm AA	23	24
25 Blanket Sunday 9am Chapel on the Beach 10:30am Worship in the Chapel 12noon All-Church Brunch	26	27 4pm Session 6:30pm NA	28 10am Bible Study 7pm Ukulele Group	29 7pm AA		

MISSION & OUTREACH - Pete Barnhart

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the **Salvation Army Angel Tree**. Over 60 children had their Christmas dreams fulfilled by generous members & friends of Siesta Key Chapel. We are grateful for Pete Barnhart's continued devotion to heading the project and ensuring all goes smoothly.

Thank you Pete!



CALL FOR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The ANNUAL MEETING of the congregation and corporation of Siesta Key Chapel is called for **Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 11:15AM** in the Sanctuary. We will receive a summary of the Annual Report for 2023, act on the Nominating Committee's proposed Slate of Officers, and present the 2024 Budget.

**All annual reports are due to the Church Office & Clerk by
Friday Jan. 5, 2024.**



All-Church Brunch

Sunday January 28

immediately following the Congregational Meeting.

RSVP by January 26

Margie Kraft 941-323-5900

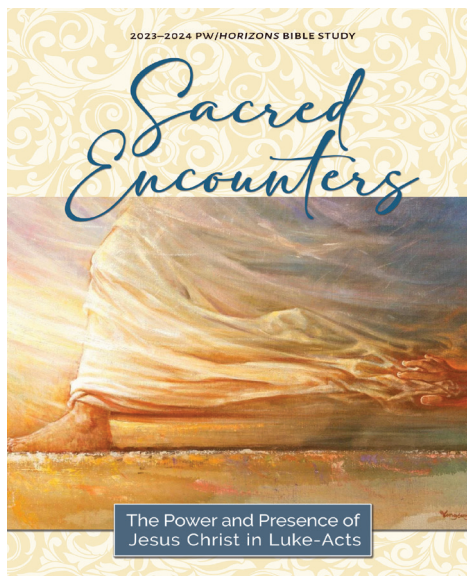
membership@SiestaKeyChapel.org

Karen, Office Administrator

941-349-1166

administrator@SiestaKeyChapel.org

BIBLE STUDY - Pastor Ruth



Bible Study, January-March 2024

Sacred Encounters:

The Power & Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

Two Wednesdays/month at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall
Light breakfast provided. All welcome!

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| January 3 | Introduction to <i>Sacred Encounters in the Bible</i> &
Lesson 1: <i>Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter</i> |
| January 17 | Lesson 2: <i>The Exorcism in Gerasa</i> &
Lesson 3: <i>A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ</i> |
| February 14 | Lesson 4: <i>Mary & Martha Encounter Jesus</i> &
Lesson 5: <i>A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus</i> |
| February 28 | Lesson 6: <i>A Person with a Physical Disability
Encounters Jesus</i> &
Lesson 7: <i>An Ethiopian Eunuch
Encounters the Good News of Jesus</i> |
| March 6 | Lesson 8: <i>Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship</i> |
| March 20 | Lesson 9: <i>People Encounter Jesus
Through the Work of the Disciples</i> |

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Julia & Mark Musto

"Church History & Principles"

with The Rev. Melana Scruggs, General Presbyter

Sundays at 9:30AM in Fellowship Hall

- Jan. 7 - Believers and Heretics
- Jan. 14 - The Emperor and the Christians
- Jan. 21 - Believers and Heretics - Part 2
- Jan. 28 - The Changing Church
- Feb. 4 - The Legacy Continues

Light breakfast served.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Dick Ulrich



All men of Siesta Key Chapel and their male friends are invited for a light breakfast, stories, and Christian fellowship in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday January 23, 8AM in Fellowship Hall

All men are welcome!



KNIT & SEW

Join the Knit & Sew group

Tuesday, February 13,

9:30AM-noon in classroom #5.

Bring a project you are working on and your lunch.

All are welcome!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Betsy Andrews
- 6 Ethel Okker
- 7 Pat Okker
- 13 Scott Getty
- 14 Liz Hershey
- 18 Barbara Deist
- 19 Dale Deist
- 20 Aerial Keidel
- 21 Gary Emmick
- 27 George Loesel



DEACONS



"Write a Card" Table

Write a Card after worship on the deck to brighten someone's day with a card of Thanks, Happy Birthday, Get Well Soon, Thinking of You, or Sympathy.

Cards are available for you to personalize. Address the envelope and the Deacons will add the stamp and make sure it goes out in the mail.