



Siesta Key Chapel
God's Treehouse

FEBRUARY 2024



Key Notes

NEWSLETTER

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

From the Pastor's Desk



Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

SanctifiedArt.org describes the disciple Peter's journey as that of a "Wandering Heart."

Like Peter, we find ourselves at times both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we see ourselves: trying to follow Jesus, dropping our nets, walking on water, running to the empty tomb, and swimming ashore to meet the risen Christ.

We joyously sing in worship, and then go out into the messy, broken world and fall short of our desire to love one another. We repent and are forgiven. God never leaves us, whether we think we have it all together and don't need God (for a nanosecond!) or are deeply aware of our shortcomings and wish to hide from God's sight. This journey of faith is a life-long adventure.

A gift on the journey is the opportunity to learn and strengthen our faith life through hymns sung in church each Sunday. "Come Thou Fount" tells our story as Christ-followers... so much like Peter's! Our faith ebbs and flows as we share this wandering journey of following Christ together, here at Siesta Key Chapel. And through it all, we are beyond grateful to remain tethered to God's unchanging love.

As a community of faith, **we start with praise:**

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

We recount God’s mercies, raising our Ebenezers—our stones of remembrance—to mark places we recognize God met us in our need, and to tell others the old, old story of God’s love through our own experience:

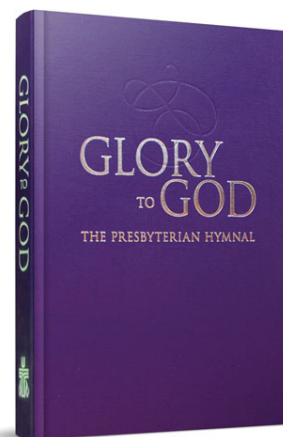
2 Here I raise my **Ebenezer**;
hither by thy help I’m come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

And we pray for God to hold us close throughout our days:

3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I’m constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above

This February, as we enter into a season of Lenten reflection, I pray that each of you, members and visitors alike, will gather often—on the beach or at the Chapel—to joyously praise God in community; to tell others about what God has done for you; and to pray that our wandering hearts become more closely tethered to the One who loves us unfailingly.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Ruth



MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST - Conner Stigner



The **Siesta Key Chapel Choir** has resumed rehearsals and all are welcome to join. The more the merrier! Reading music is not a requirement. Rehearsals take place at **9:00AM each Wednesday** in the music room. We will be preparing music for Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter. Even if you cannot attend each and every rehearsal or service you are welcome! We pride ourselves on our musical diversity at SKC so, whether you prefer Handel or Aretha Franklin, there promises to be something for everyone! See you there!

A few weeks ago I was asked about the origins of the hymn tune names themselves. While the metric matching of tune and text is more or less a calculable science, the tune names themselves are a bit of a dark art. In short, while many are named after a particular location where the music was written, the origins of the vast majority are various and sundry and worthy of many a thesis paper. Generally, the names come from either a place, a family name, or a word/phrase related to the most commonly associated text. Below are just a few examples.

MELITA (*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*): This tune is named after the island country of Malta where it is traditionally held that the apostle Paul was shipwrecked as a prisoner on the way to Rome in Acts 27. Viewed through this lens, the original text has prayerful connotation inherently tied to Paul.

*"Most Holy Spirit, Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
O hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!"*

While it has been adopted as the traditional hymn of many respective Western country's Naval forces, it wasn't until 1940 that the text was adapted by the Episcopal Church to include texts that speak to the land, air, sea, and even space! For those that are as much of a fan of the 1997 film "Titanic" as I, you may have noticed that this hymn is sung during the Sunday morning church service scene.

The text sung in the film (*O Spirit, whom the Father sent; to spread abroad the firmament...for those in peril in the air*) is actually the rewritten third verse that references the dove (Holy Spirit) sent out by Noah from the Ark in Genesis, but also the United States Air Force. This text could not possibly have been sung on the Titanic during its 1912 voyage as it wasn't penned until....1940. (Spoiler alert!)

ST. ANNE (*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*): This tune has oft been attributed to William Croft who served as organist from 1700-1711 at St. Anne's Church in Soho, London, England. The tune itself was first published in the early 18th century with text from Psalm 42. It wasn't until 1861, the first year of the American Civil War, that the tune became a setting for the "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" text, penned by English minister Isaac Watts, in a Church of England hymnal entitled *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. You may notice that many of our "standard" hymns come indirectly through the Church of England, the catholic church, and the Reformation. More on that in another article.

The St. Anne tune itself has a striking similarity to the theme of Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552 which has come to be called the "St. Anne" Fugue. Which came first: the chicken or the egg?

More to come! See you at choir rehearsal!
Conner

Post-holiday funny: Why did Herbie the Volkswagen order eggs benedict served on a hubcap at Christmas brunch?

Because there's no plate like chrome for the hollandaise!



BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & TECHNOLOGY - Barry Cline

The Ann Blechta Garden area is being improved starting with irrigation that has recently been extended to provide consistent watering for that area. Further grading and preparation of the flower bed is being scheduled so that new plants can be ordered and arranged to restore the beautiful garden area along the pathway between the Administration and Music buildings.



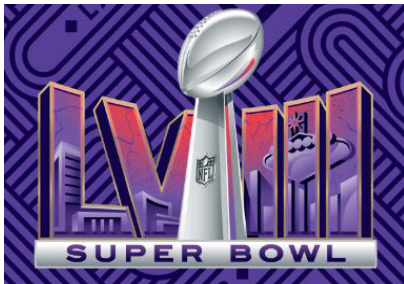
Irrigation extension is also planned for the area behind the Memorial Garden. Hurricane Ida caused permanent damage to our Wild Coffee Shrubs in that area and those had to be removed. Once irrigation is added, new planting will be scheduled for that area as well.



Coffee shrubs that were removed



Ann Blechta Garden area



“Souper” Bowl - Soup Drive
Sunday February 11, 2024
Bring in canned or packaged soup
to give to the hungry in Sarasota.
Sponsored by the
Youth of Siesta Key Chapel

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, 10 Beach Road.

Total Attendance for the year 2023 was 2,427. Total Contributions were \$30,022. Attendance for the in-season months ranged from 80-150 with our biggest congregation at Christmas Eve totaling 225. SKC has also added 15 new members because of the beach ministry.

So far this year attendance has been excellent ranging from 80-125 when the weather has been nice, and 30-50 when the weather was cold. Even when we've been rained out, many of our beach people have come to the chapel's 10:30 service.

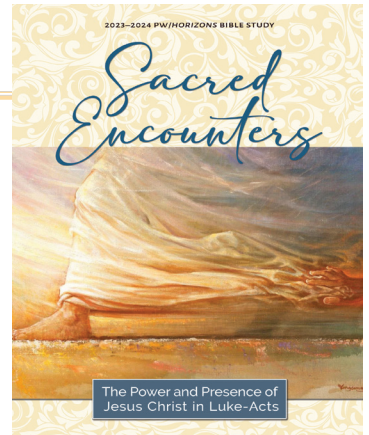
If you have not yet been to our beach service, please come on down for a relaxed and enjoyable service.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Tim O'Neil

Our most recent gathering was attended by 12 men which was a promising start for rebooting this important group at SKC. Those in attendance were anxious to stick with 2 meetings a month starting at 8 am and meeting in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers will continue to provide breakfast fare with a donation basket available for monetary contributions, and will work diligently to start on time and end promptly at 9am. For this first meeting current members showed up, but we feel the need to personally and individually contact new church members in order to invite and welcome them to our group. Our first meeting was a sharing of "God-events" some of the men had recently experienced in their lives. That was a very satisfying experience for all those present which served to give us a feeling of shared unity. Going forward we plan to do more impromptu sharing, perhaps have invited speakers to address various interest of the men, and to do some needed services the members deem needed by our church and the larger community. We intend to work diligently to keep Men's Fellowship an active and vital extension of SKC. We would encourage all attendees to bring up areas of concern in the church and in the world at large for discussion and prayerful consideration. We will avoid political discussions to preserve the unity of the group. All men are welcome to attend and find out how well this group of men can fit into their lives.

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!



February 14 Lesson 4: *Mary & Martha Encounter Jesus &*
Lesson 5: *A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus*

February 28 Lesson 6: *A Person with a Physical Disability*
Encounters Jesus &
Lesson 7: *An Ethiopian Eunuch*
Encounters the Good News of Jesus

March 6 Lesson 8: *Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship*

March 20 Lesson 9: *People Encounter Jesus*
Through the Work of the Disciples

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Mark & Julia Musto

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Sundays at 9:30AM in Fellowship Hall

February 4 - Rev. Melana Scruggs
Church History and Principles

February 11, 18 & 25 - Dr. Chris Cortman
"Assorted, Uninteresting, and Irrelevant Topics
in Mental Health and Spirituality"



MEMBERSHIP - Margie Kraft



New Members Are Joining

New Member Class

March 3 at 9:30 am

with brunch in Classroom 4

To attend or for questions please contact:

Margie Kraft, Membership Chair

941-323-5900

membership@siestakeychapel.org



All-CHURCH BRUNCH

Sunday February 25

Carrabba's Italian Grill

1940 Stickney Point Rd, Sarasota

12 noon

RSVP by February 23

Margie Kraft 941-323-5900
membership@SiestaKeyChapel.org

or

Office Administrator

941-349-1166

February

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	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 9am Choir 3:30pm Girl Scouts	8 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	9	10
11 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel "Souper Bowl" Sunday	12	13 8:00am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knit & Sew 3pm SK Condo Assoc. meeting 6:30pm NA	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 9am Choir 10am Bible Study 12noon - Chapel Ash Wednesday Service 6:00pm - Beach Ash Wednesday Service	15 7pm Ukulele Group 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 9am Choir 11:30am Beth-el Mission Day 3:30pm Girl Scouts	22 Presbytery at Trinity in Venice 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	23	24
25 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel Blanket Sunday 12noon All-Church Brunch	26	27 8:00am Men's Fellowship 3pm Session 6:30pm NA	28 9am Choir 10am Bible Study	29 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA		



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 9:30am New Member Class 10:30am Worship in the Chapel with Communion	4	5 6:30pm NA	6 9am Choir 10am Bible Study 3:30pm Girl Scouts	7 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	8	9
10 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY	11	12 8:00am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	13 9am Choir	14 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	15	16
17 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel	18	19 6:30pm NA	20 9am Choir 10am Bible Study 3:30pm Girl Scouts	21 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 9am Chapel on the Beach 9:30am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Worship in the Chapel 12noon All-Church Brunch	25	26 8:00am Men's Fellowship 6:30pm NA	27 9am Choir	28 5:30pm MAUNDY THURSDAY Service 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	29 12noon GOOD FRIDAY Service	30 9-11am Chamber Egg Hunt at SKC
31 EASTER 9am Chapel on the Beach with Communion 10:30am Worship in the Chapel with Communion						

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Allison Menezes
- 2 Sidney Marcum
- 8 Mickey Shoop
- 10 Sherry Davis
- 12 Judy Sandt
- 15 Helene Shaffer
Shirley Teeter
- 17 Gerald Spore
- 18 Alan Perry
- 19 Fred Teeter
- 20 Marilyn Rowen
- 22 Judy Jenkins
- 25 Dick Ulrich
- 26 Mark Halboth
- 27 Sue Donaldson
- 28 Ruth Ulrich



DEACONS - Mickey Shoop



"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.