

SEPTEMBER 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



*“Everybody needs beauty
as well as bread,
places to play in and pray in,
where nature may heal
and give strength
to body and soul alike.”*
(John Muir, environmentalist)

Summer travels give way to autumn’s gentle return to familiar rhythms, places and people. We look forward to reconnecting with our neighbors and church friends over the course of the fall. And we share our **summer stories**.



August journeys took me to Nashville (celebrating the birth of twin baby grandsons, **Cedar & Reed**) New Hampshire and Minnesota (speaking at Christian camps,) Estes Park, Colorado (Clergy Camp Worship Planning,) New York (adventures with granddaughters,) and Nantucket (vacation.)

One morning stands out as a snapshot in time. Horseback riding in the rugged, high-altitude Rocky Mountain National Park, we came across **two bull elk** with enormous racks, signifying power and might. We kept our distance! Moments later, we were immersed in a quiet forest of aspen. **Quaking, glimmering aspen**. We learned that aspen are more than white bark trees with heart-shaped leaves. Aspen trees are part of a grand organism with a sprawling root system. Their network of interconnected roots can produce new trees for a thousand years. The roots abide patiently in a connectional community until the sun’s warmth touches the soil (often after a fire or avalanche) and stimulates the system to spark a new cycle of growth and beauty.



From the Pastor's Desk, *continued*

Siesta Key Chapel reflects the aspen's culture. Summertime is quiet here, with a small core of folks staying connected, breathing deeply, and resting. Fall comes, friends begin to return, Bible Study resumes, the Music Committee meets to plan and dream together, and **a new cycle of growth and beauty glimmers** at our island home.

Dear people, I rejoice in each one of you, and look forward to **worshipping and working, playing and praying** with you this fall at God's Treehouse.

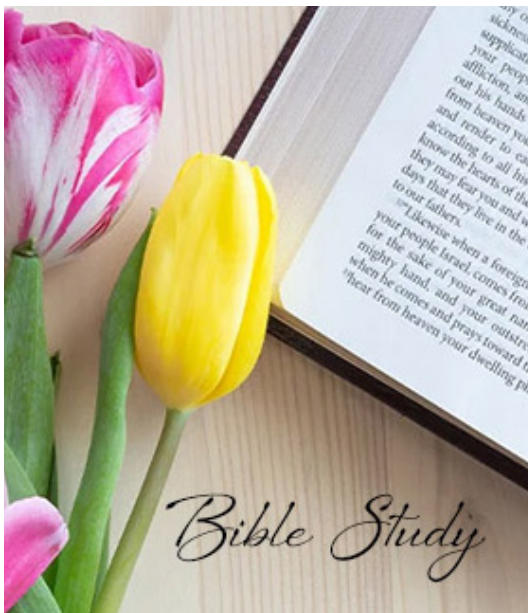
*Grace & Peace,
Pastor Ruth*

Pastor's Fall Bible Study: "HOPE in the Lord"

One Wednesday each month at 10:30am in SKC Fellowship Hall

Coffee & bakery provided

~ No cost; all welcome; bring a friend! ~



September 11

Ceaseless Love

Lamentations 3:16-24

Psalm 30

Jeremiah 52:1-30

October 16

Bold Ministers

2 Corinthians 3:1-18

November 6

The Fellowship of Encouragement

1 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

December 4

Expectant Watchfulness

Psalm 130



GUEST PREACHER

**THE REV. DR. VICTOR ALOYO
PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Dr. Aloyo believes “we belong to each other on this journey to become world changers, discoverers, explorers, curators, and stewards of God’s abundance and grace.”

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

8:30 AM CHAPEL ON THE BEACH

10:00 AM WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL



JOIN US!

SiestaKeyChapel.org
4615 Gleason Ave. Siesta Key

CHAPEL ON THE BEACH - Rick Chenoweth

Find **faith and fellowship** at *Chapel on the Beach* every Sunday at **8:30AM**. 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 worshiping God in nature at Patriots/Sunset Pier, 10 Beach Road. Take the 8AM shuttle from Siesta Key Chapel to the Beach Service.



MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST - Conner Stigner



Incredibly, Autumn is upon us once again! We have an especially thrilling year ahead that will include **Calypso, Gospel, Bluegrass, Dixieland, Patriotic Brass, Classic Jazz and traditional Sacred Music repertoire.** Grab October's newsletter for an outline of many of the exciting events planned. It promises to be a thrilling year with abundant musical opportunities at Siesta Key Chapel!

Last month we held the first meeting of our **newly formed Music Committee** which will foster **congregational collaboration** with our music ministry and guide our program forward. My gratitude to all of the members for their valuable input and ministry! Members include **Scott Duink, Louise Cashman, Robin and John Shobert, and Mickey Shoop.** Please feel free to share any feedback, suggestions, thoughts, or general commentary with them to bring to our next meeting.

Interested in singing for our Advent and Christmas services either at the beach or at the Chapel? **Now** is your opportunity to join our Siesta Key Chapel Choir and sing in concert with our world class Schantz Pipe Organ, work alongside renowned area musicians, and experience a wide array of diverse music! **No experience is necessary** and one need not read music to join. Our regular Wednesday morning choir rehearsals will resume Wednesday October 2nd at 9:30 AM in the Chapel Music Room. Come forth and sing!



BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & TECHNOLOGY - Barry Cline

It's been a busy Summer on the SKC property with the rain storms, the Siesta Key road paving project, and our own projects.

SKC survived the heavy amounts of rain water but neighbors on our surrounding property were flooded. We continue to work with our neighbors to get the County to address drainage problems on the North and East property line areas.

Both Gleason Ave and Reid St around SKC were recently repaved. SKC has allowed Ajax Paving to Stage their equipment on the SKC property for The SRQ County road Paving Project on Siesta Key. This project should come to an end around mid September.

Fellowship Hall now has a new vinyl plank floor and is getting some needed storage space added in the "stage" end of the room. New interior paint has been scheduled as well.

The Pavilion Ladies Restroom upgrade is complete.

1.79 tons of junk was also removed from the property this summer.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Tim O'Neil



The Men's Fellowship enjoyed a lively and intimate gathering at Marina Jacks this past July. The group took the opportunity to celebrate the birthdays of **Nick Pearce and Bob Lane.**

Additionally, Men's Fellowship had a pleasant interaction with a nearby couple, sharing information about Siesta Key Chapel. The couple showed genuine interest in our church and congregation, and they might even consider visiting in the future.

Everyone agreed that these lunches outside the chapel not only enhance our camaraderie but also deepen our commitment to Men's Fellowship and our church.

We warmly welcome both new and longtime members, along with their friends, to **join us for these breakfasts and lunches.** It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, get to know each other better, and gain fresh perspectives on life.

EINSTEIN BROTHERS BAGELS - Pat Chandler-Smith



Pastor Ruth, still wearing her collar after a pastoral visit, stopped by the local Einstein Bagel store. As Kevin Sullivan, the manager, and Pastor Ruth chatted, Kevin shared that he was looking for a church to help him distribute unsold bagels. He had done this at other locations where he worked and strongly believed in the importance of food going to those in need. Kevin provided Pastor Ruth with his card. This small yet significant interaction led to the Chapel now distributing 150 to 200 bagels three days a week to several organizations, including Salvation Army, Harvest House, Resurrection House, and Second Chance Last Opportunity. Currently, SKC's delivery team consists of Lisa Keith, Pat Chandler-Smith and Karen Davare.



P.S. Support Einstein Bagels at Tamiami and Bay Road/Bee Ridge and please thank Kevin.

NEW MEMBERS - John & Robin Shobert's Newcomer Story



This is probably a story that will sound familiar to many of you. To our surprise, we became Florida residents 3 years ago. We decided to downsize our North Carolina home and called our daughter to share the news. Kelly's response was: "We're moving to Siesta Key and want you there with us:" No arguments were accepted (or, tried); so, 2 months later we arrived in Siesta Key.

We have been very active in the Lutheran church since we were married (after childhoods in the Lutheran (John) and Methodist & Presbyterian (Robin) churches. We started looking for a church here, but didn't really get hooked anywhere.

We found "Chapel on the Beach" when we went on-line to find holiday beach-side services. On our first visit we became hooked with the spirituality created by God's creation - the quartz white sand, the dolphins, and the pelicans (Robin's favorite - ask her about the pelican poem). Then came the flag raising and the national anthem. (John was already asked to talk about his military and patriotism at this year's Memorial Day service.) Next, was the sincere, cheerful welcome from Pastor Ruth, followed by the musical greeting: "Come, Come as you are to worship," and then a homily about God's love and grace. We believe that invitation "to be as we are" is the means by which we experience the love and grace that God uses to lead us to service and love for others.

We decided to join the Siesta Key Chapel after joining Connor's choir, attending Margie's new members' meeting, and meeting the folks in the chairs on the beach and the pews in the chapel. We enjoy participating at both services (depending on the weather), attending Men's Fellowship, making Chrismons in Women's Knit and Sew, helping Karen with bulletin-board posting, reading scripture, and raising the American flag.

So, here we are in Florida happily, attending a church that is spiritual, welcoming, and beautiful. And, importantly, a church with good people with Christian values and who are just plain nice!

-John & Robin Shobert



SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel	2	3 6:30pm NA	4 3:30pm Girl Scouts	5 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	6	7
8 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel with Communion 11:15am Confirmation Class at SKC	9	10 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	11 10:30am Bible Study	12 9am-2pm Presbytery at Burnt Store PC 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	13	14
15 7:15am Confirmation Class at SK Beach Pier 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel 11:15am Deacons	16	17 6:30pm NA	18 3:30pm Girl Scouts	19 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	20	21
22 Special Guest Preacher President, Columbia Theological Seminary, both services 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel 11:30am All-Church Brunch	23	24 4pm Session Meeting 6:30pm NA	25	26 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	27	28
29 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel	30					



October

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 6:30pm NA	2 3:30pm Girl Scouts	3 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	4	5
6 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel with Communion	7	8 9:30am Knit & Sew 6:30pm NA	9	10 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	11	12
13 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel 11:15am Confirmation Class	14	15 6:30pm NA	16 10:30am Bible Study 3:30pm Girl Scouts	17 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	18	19 Presbytery at Bradenton UPC
20 7:15am Confirmation Class at SK Beach Pier 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Worship in the Chapel 11:30am All-Church Brunch	21	22 6:30pm NA	23	24 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA	25	26
27 8:30am Chapel on the Beach 10am Picnic Service with Blessing of the Dogs	28	29 4pm Session Meeting 6:30pm NA	30	31 7pm Ukulele Group 7pm AA		

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Bruce Schewe
- 2 Jim Kraft
- 10 Charla Halboth
Janet Steele
- 12 D. Craig Holliday
Dennis Block
Maggie Valenta
Pat Chandler-Smith
- 17 Marian Kovacs
- 20 Craig Linn
- 30 Susan Scheppler



ALL-CHURCH BRUNCH - Margie Kraft

All-Church Brunch at Turtles **11:30AM Sunday, September 22**

8875 Midnight Pass Rd. Siesta Key
RSVP by September 20

Sign-up is at the Welcome Desk
or contact

Margie Kraft 941-323-5900
membership@SiestaKeyChapel.org
or Office Administrator 941-349-1166

