

Christ Church of Longboat Key,
Presbyterian U.S.A.
6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228



TO:



Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor
941-383-8833

Web-site: www.christchurchoflbk.org
E-mail: info@christchurchoflbk.org

OFFICE HOURS:
Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30 - 1:30

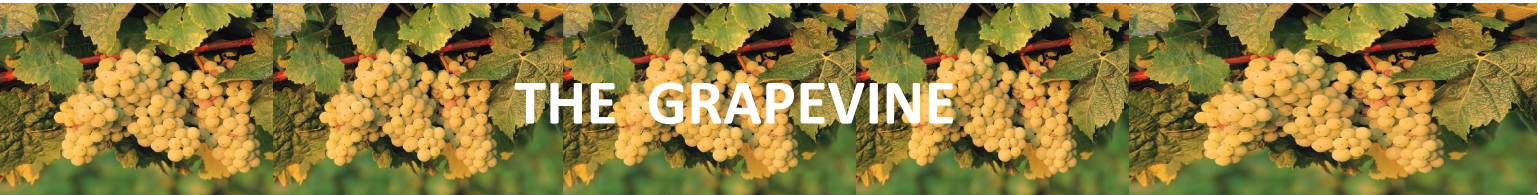
Members of Session:

Class:

- 2024 Kristine Bemko, Spiritual Growth
- 2023 Noel Ebrahim, Clerk of the Session
- 2024 Bob Elwell, Personnel
- 2022 Fred Finks, Spiritual Growth
- 2024 Mark Hausberg, Admin/Finance
- 2022 Elaine McClure, Personnel
- 2023 Diana Neely, Worship
- 2023 Ann Quackenbush, Membership
- 2022 Sally Rauch, Mission
- 2023 John Shehorn, Admin/Finance
- 2022 Bill Wartinbee, Fellowship
- 2024 Lutie Uihlein, Caring Ministries

Deacons:

- 2022 Susan Crumpler
- 2024 John Dixon
- 2023 Holly Finks
- 2022 Debra McKenna
- 2024 Steve Miller
- 2023 Susan Stuckert



THE GRAPEVINE

DECEMBER 2021

CHRIST CHURCH OF LBK MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL XI, Issue VI

The Pastor’s Page

Lots of Changes, Lots to be Grateful For!

By Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor

The ancient philosopher Heraclitus was right: “There is nothing permanent except change.”

As we begin to see church life get back to normal (and how welcome is that!), we discover that the normal will have elements of new in it. Times change; people move on; others step up, thankfully.

Change at the Office: Kathy Butler has given outstanding service in the church office. She has been a reliable and friendly presence and welcoming first contact at Christ Church for more than a decade. Her cheerful disposition and friendly greetings make going to the church office a joyful experience. Her lively sense of humor delights in the sign on display in the office: “Director of First Impressions.”

Kathy has recently decided that she is ready to start her well-earned retirement. Fortunately, she has agreed to stay a little longer to allow the church to find her replacement and provide some training. We'll have more on celebrating Kathy’s service to our church in the future.

Session’s Personnel Committee is beginning a search and anyone who may be aware of someone who has strong interpersonal and office skills, and would be interested in a part-time job, please have them submit their interest and qualifications to the Pastor in the church office.

Change at the Prayer Chain: Since the very early days of Christ Church, our belief in the centrality of prayer has found expression in the Prayer Chain under the faithful direction of Jean Gorham and Holly Braun. They have kept their team of faithful people of prayer aware of prayer needs that have been brought to our attention and ensured that they are daily brought before God’s throne of grace. Jean and Holly have earned our deep appreciation of their faithful ministry of prayer leadership and as they move on from this role, we are delighted to welcome Karen Jennings and Shirley Venkataraman as the new leaders of the Prayer Chain.

Changes are afoot also with the church website. Launched some years ago by Dan Crumpler and Marc Fors, Dan has been tirelessly keeping the website as up-to-date as the information he receives allows. Dan was also involved in helping with the development of our live-streaming of the Sunday services. People may remember that, during the lockdown when Sunday worship involved a very small group in the sanctuary, Dan made recordings of congregational hymns available for inclusion in the broadcast, adding a joyful sense of praise to what would otherwise have been a pretty sparse worship experience.

Sometimes it takes a committee to carry on an initiative and we have been fortunate to have knowledgeable and committed members working on the website and other aspects of the technology that shares our worship and church life with the wider world. Thanks to their generous efforts (plaudits to Kris Bemko and her committee, and to Bill Buckley, Fred Finks and their committee) the church website has a new look, a user-friendly format and lots of new features being regularly added. Visit us at www.christchurchoflbk.org and see for yourself! One interesting feature is that the website offers immediate access to the live-stream of Sunday services, both at the actual time the service takes place, or at a later time of the viewer’s own choosing.

Increasingly, church websites are functioning as congregational shop windows, so pass the word around your family and friends and encourage them to take a look.

I remain grateful that, amid all the changes we’re experiencing, God’s faithfulness does not change, and many of our members and friends reflect that in their faithfulness and commitment.





Intercessory Prayer – The Hands of Christ – A Ministry of the Deacons

As a deacon for the past three years, I have had the opportunity to minister to those of you who come after church with a need or a praise on your mind. The Deacons are available every Sunday. We are not in a hurry to go home and quite willingly desire to help you.

Full Circle – When my son was in elementary school he used to love to listen to Elvis Presley. He had several CD’s he enjoyed. It was during this time I was able to get him to learn one of these songs to sing for a family reunion we were to attend in North Carolina. Daniel was about 10 years old at the time and his voice hadn’t changed yet, so I had to change the music into a key that he could use. The song he chose was Reach out to Jesus. Can’t you just hear him? The reunion was on a Saturday and when we returned in the afternoon, we found out that my aunt’s small country church needed someone to lead the music the next day. Of course, I got volunteered and I volunteered my son to sing as well. It just happened to be Father’s Day and his dad was so proud of him. You’d never get him to sing a solo now.

I tell you all this because last July I was greatly burdened over something my son was considering doing to change his career. During church it seemed just too much to bear. My tears began to fall. When the service was over, seeing no one else with the deacons that were there for that day, I decided to go back and ask for prayer for myself. I could hardly speak to tell them what was going on, and I knew them both! But what I found was that by sharing it with them and knowing they would pray for me relieved some of the burden. I knew they would pray, and I didn’t have to do it all. As Elvis sang:

Is your burden heavy as you bear it all alone? Does the road you travel harbor danger yet unknown? Are you growing weary in the struggle of it all? Jesus will help you when on His name you call. He is always there hearing every prayer faithful and true. Walking by our side in His love we hide all the day through. When you get discouraged just remember what to do. Reach out to Jesus, He's reaching out to you. Won’t you please lighten your burden with us?

Susan Crumpler, Deacon



*The earnest prayer of a righteous person
has great power and produces wonderful results.*
James 5:16

Christ Church has certainly seen this verse come true many times over since Holly Braun and Jean Gorham established our prayer chain in 2006.

After 15 years of faithful and prayerful service, Holly and Jean have decided to answer new callings and this month fellow prayer chain partners Karen Jennings and Shirley Venkataraman will begin to oversee this ministry.

Our faithful team of prayer partners is committed to lifting up your prayers/praises daily. You can be assured your prayer requests are always kept in the strictest of confidence.

If you have a need for which you would like prayer, please contact Karen or Shirley.

Karen Jennings
Shirley Venkataraman

Growing in Jesus’ name through Bible studies,
Sunday School, small groups, and special events.



“Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God and the Peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” - - Philippians 4:6



Personal Reflection . . . Barbara Grimes

Sitting in church on December 16, I was anxious, afraid and had a sense that something was going to go wrong when I was to have my baby by C Section. As I sat there in fear, this scripture was read and I started weeping because I knew God had given that to me so I could be encouraged and have His Peace that transcends understanding. Our son was born but had breathing difficulty and was taken by Angel Flight to Vanderbilt Hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. I wasn’t able to go, but no matter the reports about his condition, I had this incredible peace and people were amazed I wasn’t a mess. This peace is from God I would get to say. I am so thankful for this passage of scripture.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY meets on **Wednesday’s at 10 :00 a.m.** in the Office Building Meeting Room. We are currently studying “Living Beyond Yourself-Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit,” an 11-week video study by Beth Moore in which we are challenged to develop the fruit of the Holy Spirit and enjoy the freedom that it provides. This study will end December 22. For information, please contact Jean Buckley. We are currently looking at several studies and will start a new study on January 5. Please watch the eblast and bulletin for the details. You do not have to be a member of the church to attend; all are welcome!

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY continues our study and discussion of the book of Romans.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: When Sunday School resumes in the New Year, we’ll begin a new series, “That’s a Good Question.” The four gospels record Jesus asking lots of questions—no fewer than 300, according to some counts—and we’ll take six of Jesus’ biggest questions and intersperse them with six questions some of our people would like to ask Jesus! That’s where the congregation comes in: suggestions welcome! If you have a question you’d like considered for inclusion in the series—something you’ve always wanted to ask Jesus—email the question to Norman, and he’ll try to curate a diverse series of topics. While asking Norman is not quite (!) as good as asking Jesus, he says he’ll do his best to mine scripture and come up with what he thinks scripture says—and therefore what we can assume Jesus would offer as a reply. The series will begin January 9, so get those questions in as soon as possible.

SMALL GROUPS will begin in **January, 2022.** This is an excellent time to join fellow Christians at Christ Church to study God’s Word and build a strong Christian community. We will be offering four groups in four different locations: Bradenton - Noel Ebrahim; Sarasota East - Hannah Miller; LBK north - Jon and Barbara Grimes; Sarasota south - Fred Finks. Watch for sign-up materials in Fellowship Hall in the coming weeks.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE: Wednesday, December 8, at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room or virtual. Why do I need to read the Bible? Is it relevant for today? How do I go about reading it and understanding what it says? If you have questions like these or want to confirm in your mind the truths of God’s Word sign up for the next Introduction to the Bible offering. Did you know that Jesus says ‘The Scriptures testify of Me’ (John 5:37-40). There are over 300 specific references about Jesus in the Old Testament. Romans 15:4 says: ‘Whatever things were written before were written for our learning that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures we might have HOPE!’ And don’t we need hope for today. Contact Barbara Grimes.

WOMEN’S VIRTUAL SMALL GROUP: We meet **Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.** We are using Warren Wiersbe’s Commentary on the Book of Hebrews: *Be Confident, Live by Faith not by Sight.* Contact Barbara Grimes.

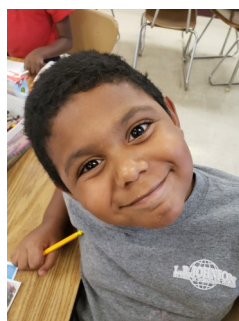
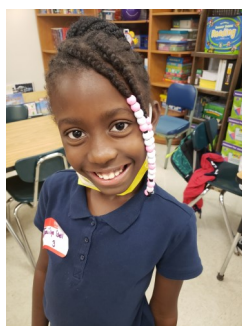


Kathy Butler has been a reliable and friendly presence in the Christ Church office for more than a decade. Her cheerful disposition and friendly greetings make going to the church office a joyful experience. Kathy has recently decided that she is ready to start her well-earned retirement. Fortunately, she has agreed to stay a short while longer to allow the church to find her replacement and provide some training. We'll have more on celebrating Kathy's service to our church in the future.

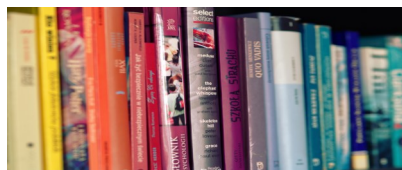
If you are aware of someone who has strong interpersonal and office skills, and would be interested in a part-time job, please have them submit their interest and qualifications to the Pastor in the church office.

THE READING BUDDIES ARE BACK IN BUSINESS!

After a LONG Covid hiatus, the Dream Center children are once again reunited with their Christ Church Reading Buddies. Can you tell by their sparking eyes and sweet smiles how happy they are to be reading again?



We Want Your Used Books, Jigsaw Puzzles and DVDs



The **CCLBK Book Sale** kicks off with a sale to the public on **Saturday, February 5**. We hope to draw people into our church while also providing funds for our library. You can help us have a great sale by donating books, puzzles and DVDs. You can leave items in the library during normal office hours and on Sunday mornings. We will also provide pick up for anyone who requests this assistance.

Contact Karen Fors for more information.



Your Library Celebrates the Birth of Jesus

You will find colorful story books for children and grandchildren, detailed historical accounts of the coming of Christ for adults and a variety of books that articulate the true meaning of Christmas through thoughtful commentary and inspiring illustrations.

Our large collection of Christmas novels includes heartwarming tales, many by bestselling authors, about families and individuals who find the true meaning of Christmas and reshape their lives by focusing on the great gift that God gave the world through the birth of his Son.

Christmas CDs, tempting holiday cookbooks and seasonal jigsaw puzzles can also be found on our shelves. Don't forget our family games, stored in the double door closet in the meeting room. Grab a few and share the fun with your visitors, young and old alike.

Library hours are 9:00 to noon Sundays, 8:30 to 1:30 Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

MISSION MATTERS

Two Notes from Our Mission Partners

A recent letter from **Erin Minor, CEO of Harvest House:**

"Our mission is all about transformation. We journey alongside people during some of the more pivotal moments in their lives. One young person's story in particular reminds me of the transformation that happens in a person's life in less than two years, and the implications on our collective future.

"DeeDee faced many adverse childhood experiences and by the age of 20 she found herself incarcerated. Upon completing her sentence, she was just 21 years old with nowhere to go.

"After three months in our short-term transitional program for young adults, DeeDee moved into our New Heights supportive housing program. With a team behind her, she was able to access mental health services, return to school and increase her income. She enrolled in the State College of Florida's nursing program and secured a job as a personal care attendant.

"A year and a half later, DeeDee is a straight A student, a budding artist and a stellar employee at her job. She has saved enough money to move into her own place when she completes the program. A donor recently heard of her accomplishments and doubled her savings!

"For the first time in her life, DeeDee has a space that she can call her own. She couldn't wait to decorate her room with string lights and canvases she painted at the Youth Drop-In Center. You can tell that she takes pride in her space and that it reflects the newfound peace in her life."



A recent letter from **Allen Speer, CEO of Agape Flights:**

"During a visit following the earthquake in Haiti, I had the opportunity to spend a night in Les Cayes, Haiti, with Jim and April Starkey. One of Jim and April's three sons is named Zeke. Zeke had given up his room to me as the guest in their home – a great sacrifice.

"On the morning of my departure, I was packing my belongings when Zeke walked into his room. I could tell he wanted to talk, and once again in his own way he told me that he was glad that I had visited his family. He then proceeded to ask if he could pray for me. Placing his small hand on my shoulder, my friend Zeke prayed a precious prayer asking God to watch after me in my travels throughout the region.

"Touched and moved by the care and concern of this little boy, God reminded me that not only do we serve adult mission partners and others in need through Agape Flights, we serve their children as well."



BREAST CANCER WALK

Walk to raise money for American Cancer Society
Saturday, October 16



BLOOD DRIVE - November 1

Thanks to all who gave!



Fun - Fellowship - New/old Friends!



Looking Forward ... to Looking Back

January will be a special month for our congregation. In addition to welcoming returning members and friends to church life, we have special celebrations planned. Although the congregation had moved in our new church on October 23, 2011, and the work on the building was completed on November 1, 2011, the sanctuary was duly dedicated on Sunday January 15, 2012.

So, Sunday January 16, 2022, will mark the 10th anniversary of this significant milestone in the life of the congregation which we will acknowledge with a special service of thanksgiving. We'll follow that with a special celebratory congregational dinner on the following Wednesday, January 19, and conclude our celebration the following Sunday, January 23, with another special service at which Dr. Finks will preach on the magnificent stained-glass window that centers our hearts and minds on our Lord and the mission he has given us. Full details of arrangements will be announced in due course.

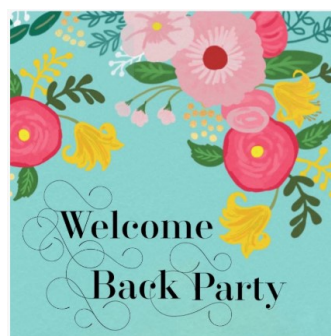
"Growing in Jesus' name" aptly characterizes Christ Church. Growing numerically is the obvious expression of our mission and we continue to be blessed with new members from many places and denominations who want to share our faith journey. In addition, however, we are growing in faith and trust as we see the way God has opened doors for us and led us to believe the work God has for us to do in his name. So many ministries of outreach and caring have been taken up and enthusiastically pursued. We are growing in our knowledge of God as Bible studies and small groups explore the riches of the faith we have been given, and the fellowship which flows from all this in burgeoning congregational life is a deepening and enriching experience for more and more members and friends.

A special feature of the celebrations will be the symbolic burning of the last of the notes we took on to help pay for the construction of the church. We end the year 2021 debt free, with thanks to the members who helped us with this financial support and the leaders and officers who structured the repayment process and kept us focused on reaching this important goal!

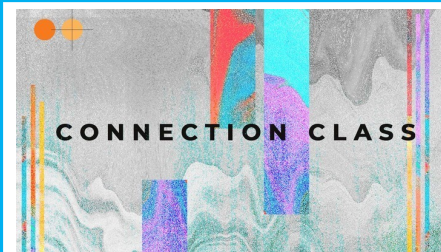
So much to celebrate and be grateful for! So many signs of the goodness of our God!

Dr. Pritchard





Friday,
November 5
Cedar's East
Let the "season"
begin!



Following our worship service on **Sunday, December 12**, our pastor will hold a **Connection Class** in Fellowship Hall for people interested in learning more about membership (full or affiliate) at Christ Church and for those who recently joined. The meeting is intended to provide information and answer people's questions, and anyone interested is invited to attend.

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or contact Ann Quackenbush at to reserve your space.

CHRIST CHURCH OF LONGBOAT KEY

TOUR OF THE HOLY LAND

MAY 4-13, 2022

HOSTED BY: **Dr. Norman Pritchard** and **Dr. Fred Finks**

\$5058* pp from Tampa, FL



(All Inclusive: Round trip airfare, 4 & 5 star hotels, land transportation, guide, entrance fees, tips, carrier surcharge, travel insurance, breakfast and dinner daily and 4 lunches. **Not included:** Drinks, souvenirs and personal items.)

Journey with us to the land where Scripture comes alive. Visit the towns and places where Jesus lived, taught and performed miracles. Walk the ancient streets of Jerusalem, experience the Old City and travel the Way of the Cross, sit among the ancient trees on the Mt. of Olives, Sail on the Sea of Galilee and swim in the Dead Sea. From Caesarea, Tiberias, Galilee, Capernaum, the Jordan, Masada to Jerusalem this will be a life changing experience. Join us.

Optional Extension to Petra, Jordan: May 13 to 15, 2021 - **\$1049*** pp

Optional Extension to Egypt: May 15 to 20, 2021 - **\$2106*** pp

If interested, email Dr. Fred Finks.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Ever just need a hug? The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Christ Church creates hand knit shawls just for that purpose. Listen to the creation story of a Prayer Shawl.

Talented and gifted persons give their time and talents to creating the prayer shawls. Three skeins of yarn, a repeated knitting pattern of three stitches representing the Trinity, and prayerful knitters create the beautiful Shawls to be shared with persons needing a touch of love and the peace of the Lord. The specific needs are varied and very individual. Often a

Deacon may have the opportunity to share in the act of gifting. What an honor that is in the role of a Deacon. The blessings of that moment flow to all involved.

The earliest documentation on record for the establishment of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is an article in the Church newsletter dated June 2009. Eight women were gathering to create shawls to expand the welcoming and loving church experienced at Christ Church.

Currently the Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on **Fridays at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Blessings flow as the click of needles and warm greetings fill the air. The Deacons are here to share in this Ministry by being contacted and made aware of an opportunity to share a Shawl with someone. Confidentiality is maintained in all contacts as desired.

Deacons, church family, one and all, come visit on a Friday morning. You will be welcomed and hear marvelous stories of blessings gained through the click of knitting needles and love toward one another.

Dan and Belle Fangmeyer say they felt the presence of the Lord from the first moment they entered Christ Church. The Fangmeyers learned of Christ Church from Bennie and Bob Dods and decided to try it out when they moved to Longboat Key five months ago. “The greeters were so warm and friendly,” Belle recalls. “We felt really welcomed.”

The Fangmeyers are joining as full time members by transfer from Longs Chapel in Waynesville, North Carolina where they own a wedding venue. They say they plan to be very active in the life of the church. Belle, a retired homemaker, is already attending the Wednesday morning Women’s Bible Studies and looks forward to helping with Wednesday Night Dinners. And, her husband Dan, who is semi-retired, looks forward to being involved in our many volunteer projects as well. When you see Dan and Belle at church on Sunday, be sure to give them a warm welcome.

* * * *

Mike McCullough is joining Christ Church as a full member and resides in Holmes Beach full time. Prior to coming to our area, Mike lived in Waynesville, NC, and was a member of Longs Chapel UMC where he volunteered with many organizations but really enjoyed the soup kitchen and homeless shelter. Mike and his brother-in-law Dan Fangmeyer are already volunteering to assist with the food drive for Our Daily Bread. Please welcome Mike to our church family.

* * * *

If you look in the alto section of the Christ Church choir, you’ll see one of our newest full-time members, **Margaret ‘Maggie’ Moore.** Maggie found Christ Church through a chance meeting with John Shehorn at Turning Points where she works as a volunteer. “I mentioned I was looking for a new church home,” Maggie remembers, “and John suggested I visit Christ Church.” It was a perfect fit. Maggie says she was immediately drawn to our warm and friendly fellowship, beautiful sanctuary, Norman’s teaching and Scottish brogue and, of course, the rich music ministry of Robert Romanski and Jeremy Silverman.

A single resident of Bradenton now for eleven years, Maggie retired after a very storied carrier. She began as an elementary school teacher and counselor in Missouri and eventually moved to Washington D.C., where she worked for two members of Congress, a U.S. Senator, NBC Government Relations and the Kidney Care Council. Be sure to introduce yourself to Maggie and treat her to a warm CCLBK welcome.

* * * *

One of our newest full time members is already busy welcoming visitors and newcomers at our Welcome Desk. **Kathy Pendleton** was first introduced to Christ Church by John and Jackie Dixon and decided she wanted to become an active member of our church family. Kathy first arrived on Longboat Key in a fifty-four foot live aboard Hatteras boat in 1999. She fell in love with the island and later bought a home. Kathy is retired from her career in Sales Management and looks forward to getting to know people in the church and contributing to the life of our church.

* * * *

Brent Piersma is joining our church as a full member transferring his membership from Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Warrenville, IL. We’re not sure what brings him to our area, but a recent article in the Warrenville newsletter “Hometown Happenings” points out parking in the street is not allowed when the snow is two inches or above! That may be a contributing factor, along with the fact that he has relatives here. In his earlier life, he’s lived in California and South Dakota.

Brent is a retired attorney specializing in trucking insurance issues, is single and lives in Bradenton. He’s anxious to learn more about his new home state and recently traveled to St. Augustine taking in all the sights there. He wants to dig deeper into Biblical studies and understanding. In Illinois, he enjoyed helping out at a church pantry shelving canned goods and prepping boxes for delivery. At CCLBK he would like to be involved in Men’s Club, Communion prep, ushering and Bible studies. Here’s a nice WARM welcome to Brent as he joins with us in serving God and community!



Our first meeting will be **Monday, December 6** in **Fellowship Hall**; coffee and Danish will be served at **8:15**. Our speaker is J.B. Miller, and the title of his presentation is, ‘Who Are the Mennonites and Amish in Sarasota?’ beginning at 8:30.

Mr. Miller was raised Mennonite in Sarasota, and has professionally worked with financial service companies affiliated with his church. He is an active speaker about the Amish and Mennonites, and we know he will be a fascinating presenter.

Sign-up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall, or you can email Wayne Smith.



CHRIST CHURCH
OF LONGBOAT KEY
PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

Growing in Jesus' Name

Sunday Service - 10:00AM

The Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard



Special Christmas Messiah

December 12 at 10:00 AM

Christ Church is pleased to feature the Christmas portion of Handel's crowning achievement. Our Chancel Choir, professional soloists and orchestra will present this joyful holiday event during our regular Sunday Service.



Visitors & Residents Welcome • Free Event

6400 Gulf of Mexico Dr. • 941.383.8833 (office) • www.christchurchlbk.org



Join us in the Conference Room at 1:00 p.m. the following Wednesdays:

- December 15: *The Midnight Librarian* by Matt Haig
- January 19: *Firekeeper’s Daughter* by Angeline Boulley
- February 16: *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi



We play two Tuesdays each month at **1:30 p.m.** Modern American Canasta rules are followed. Here are the **Tuesday** dates for 2021/22: December 14 and 28; February 19; March 5 and 19; April 2 and 16; May 7 and 21.

Join us at the Tidy Island Association Clubhouse, 139 Tidy Island Blvd, Bradenton. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Bonnie Wright.



**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...help change a life

Thank you to all who have volunteered for the Salvation Army bell ringing that continues through December 24 at Publix on LBK.

We need more volunteers; shifts are only 1.25 hours. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Sue Wertman.

Donors: Every \$20 bill that is put in the red kettle will be doubled!

**SARASOTA BOAT
PARADE OF LIGHTS**



On **Saturday, December 11**, we gather together on City Island, just south of the Mote Marine Mammal building, to enjoy this spectacular Christmas parade of boats covered in holiday lights passing before us on the Intercoastal Waterway. **Time: 5:00 pm. – parade begins at 6:00 p.m.**

Please bring your beverage of choice, an appetizer to share and a lawn chair. All are welcome to attend this special event! Please sign up in Fellowship Hall. Questions, contact Sue Wertman or Patty Buck

PACEMAKER WEARERS!

You may want to check with your doctor to see if it is okay for you to wear our magnetic name tags. There have been a few articles written recommending you do not wear this type of tag near your pacemaker. If you require a pin to secure your name tag, please see Ann Quackenbush at the Welcome Desk.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31



SOCIALIZING AFTER CHURCH



TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE! CIRCLE THE RIGHT ANSWER BELOW.

ANSWER WILL BE IN NEXT MONTH'S GRAPEVINE.

WHEN THE WISE MEN CAME TO VISIT JESUS, THEY CAME TO:

- A. A STABLE AT THE INN IN BETHLEHEM
- B. A TENT IN EGYPT
- C. MARY AND JOSEPH'S HOUSE IN BETHLEHEM

Christian Reading Matters

Come and join Joan Pritchard as she leads a discussion of these books in January, February and March! We will meet in the conference room at **3:30 p.m. on January 31, February 28, and March 28.** Please register ahead of time at the activities table so that we can email the discussion questions to you ahead of time. The books will be available for purchase at the activities table.

January: *Imagine Heaven* by John Burke

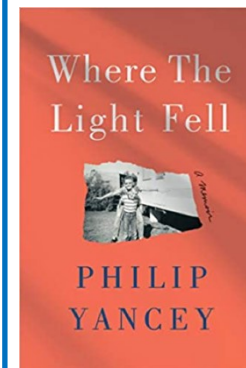
It's obvious from the bookshelves and the big screen that heaven is on everyone's mind. All of us long to know what life after death will be like. Bestselling author John Burke is no exception. For decades, he has been studying accounts of people who have had near-death experiences (NDEs). While not every detail of individual NDEs correlate with Scripture, Burke shows how the common experiences shared by thousands of survivors clearly point to the God of the Bible and the exhilarating picture of heaven he promises.



Imagine Heaven is an inspirational journey through the Bible's picture of heaven, colored in with the real-life stories of heaven's wonders. Burke compares gripping stories of NDEs to what Scripture says about our biggest questions of heaven: Will I be myself? Will I see friends and loved ones? What will it look like? What is God like? What will we do forever? What about children and pets? This book will propel readers into an experience that will forever change their view of the life to come and the way they live life today. It also tackles the tough questions of heavenly reward and hellish NDEs. A fascinating and hope-filled book.

February : *Where the Light Fell* by Philip Yancey

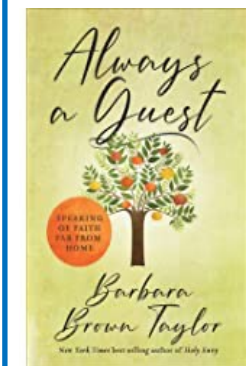
Philip Yancey, beloved author of 25 books that have been translated into 50 languages worldwide, has written a memoir that depicts his faith journey in detail that many readers will appreciate for its honesty and marvel at the struggle it describes. Readers of some of his previous books will know that Yancey had to struggle for his faith, but ... really ... this much?



One author is cited on the back cover: "*Where The Light Fell* could be a Faulkner novel, with racist preachers, off kilter parenting, tormented siblings, and religious hypocrisy right and left. It's not an overstatement to say that this stunning memoir might be the miracle we've all waited for. I believe every word."

March: *Always a Guest* by Barbara Brown Taylor

From beloved writer and renowned preacher Barbara Brown Taylor comes a new collection of sermons and stories of faith, grace, and hope. Taylor, author of several best-selling books and named as one of the best preachers in the country, uses the experience of being a guest preacher, speaking of faith to people you don't know, as requiring her to seek common ground by exploring the central human experience. Full of Taylor's astute observations on the Spirit and the state of the world, seasoned by her gentle wit, this is a collection to savor and enjoy.



Everyone will have their own favorite sermon!

CCLBK CALENDAR OF EVENTS
for 2021—2022
(all subject to change!)

December

06 Men's Club
11 Sarasota Boat Parade
12 Christmas Messiah
12 Connect Class
13 Hope Seeds
24 Christmas Eve Service

January

09 Activity Fair
10 Men's Club
10 Women's Club Lunch Around
16 Concert - Alexa Lowrey
19 Special Event — 10th Anniversary
24 Hope Seeds
28 Dine Around
30 Annual Congregational Meeting
31 Christian Reading Matters

February

05 Library Book Sale (public)
06 Library Book Sale
07 Men's Club
13 Library Book Sale
14 Women's Club Valentine's Day
16 Wed. Night Dinner—West Coast Black Theatre
25 Ceilidh Dinner
27 Kirkin' o' the Tartans
28 Christian Reading Matters
28 Hope Seeds

March

06 Concert
07 Men's Club
11 First Timers Dine Around
14 Women's Club
16 Wed. Night Dinner—Missions
28 Christian Reading Matters
28 Hope Seeds

April

04 Men's Club
06 Reading Buddies Awards Program
14 Maundy Thursday Service
15 Good Friday Service
17 Easter
22 or 29 End of Season Party
25 Hope Seeds

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CA = Coffee Area CR = Conference Room FH = Fellowship Hall MR = Meeting Room			1 10:00 am CR & MR  Women's Bible Study	2 10:30am WOMEN'S SMALL GRP—Zoom READING BUDDIES	3	4
5 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION ADVENT BEGINS	6 8:15 am MEN'S CLUB—FH	7 9:30 am WORSHIP 9:00 am—CR MISSION 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA	8 10:00 am CR & MR WBS 2:00 pm—CR INTRO to BIBLE	9 10:30 am WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP Zoom	10	11 noon MESSIAH REHEARSAL 5:00 pm SARASOTA BOAT PARADE
12 10:00 am WORSHIP CHRISTMAS SUNDAY MESSIAH SERVICE CONNECT CLASS	13 9:00 am MBS 1:00 pm FH HOPE SEEDS FH 7:00 pm CHOIR	14 9:30 am FELLOWSHIP 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA 1:30 CANASTA Tidy Island	15 10:00 am CR & MR WBS 1:00 pm BOOK CLUB CR	16 10:30am WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP Zoom	17	18
19 10:00 am WORSHIP	20 9:00 am MBS 1:00 pm—CR DEACONS 7:00 pm CHOIR	21 9:00 am SESSION Zoom 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA	22 10:00 am MR  Women's Bible Study	23 10:30 am WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP Zoom	24 5:30pm  Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS
26 10:00 am WORSHIP	27 9:00 am MBS 7:00 pm CHOIR	28 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA 1:30 pm CANASTA Tidy Island	29 10:00 am MR  Women's Bible Study	30 10:30 am WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP Zoom	31 New Year's Eve 	