

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



TO:



Vision Statement: *“Growing in Jesus’ Name”*

Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor
Dr. Fred Frinks, Honorary Parish Associate
941-383-8833

Web-site: www.christchurchoflbk.org

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

Members of Session:

Class:

2024	Kristine Bemko, Spiritual Growth/ Technology
2025	Steve Bergman, Missions
2023	Noel Ebrahim, Clerk of the Session
2024	Bob Elwell, Personnel
2025	Mike Gardiner, Nominating
2024	Mark Hausberg, Admin/Finance
2025	Joyce Wartinbee, Membership
2025	Debra McKenna, Caring Ministries
2023	Diana Neely, Worship
2023	Ann Quackenbush, Membership/ Nominating
2023	John Shehorn, Admin/Finance
2024	Lutie Uihlein, Fellowship

Deacons:

2023	Holly Finks
2025	Gary Frank
2024	Susan Crumpler
2023	Susan Stuckert



SUMMER 2022

CHRIST CHURCH OF LBK MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL XII, Issue VI

The Pastor’s Page

Grateful and Blessed!

By: Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor

After Jeremy Silverman’s unexpected departure, a small committee was formed under Bob Elwell, chair of the Session Personnel Committee, Diana Neely, chair of the Worship Committee, Lutie Uihlein from the Choir, with Director of Music Robert Romanski and the Pastor as (non-voting) advisors. Choir member Tim Liggett was also helpful early in the search process.

The committee immediately got to work. The position description was reviewed and revised. Robert Romanski got the word out to the organist world and made a number of personal contacts. Bob Elwell had the position advertised through the American Guild of Organists, both locally and nationally, and both initiatives soon produced results.

We received a dozen or so inquiries, many of which became applicants for the position. Bob made initial contact with applicants and through extensive phone interviews, explained our requirements and fielded questions. At this point, the value of our internet presence became apparent. We were able to conduct initial interviews by Zoom, which included candidates working in other states. Many applicants sent us links of their playing, which allowed us to assess their musical style (while making due allowance for different worship contexts!) and the wise applicants checked out our worship services on line.

After a number of face-to-face interviews, which included auditions on the church organ and piano, the committee came to the unanimous decision that our candidate of choice was Bryan L. Cordell.

Bryan offers over 30 years experience in church music, supporting a wide variety of worship and musical styles including classical, sacred, hymns, contemporary, and gospel. He has played a wide variety of organs, from traditional pipe organs through electronic, digital, and MIDI technologies.

In his interview, Bryan came across as warm and friendly, relaxed and engaging and spoke enthusiastically about church worship and the important place of music within it. He told us about his deep love of the organ and his desire to see its importance as a vehicle for worship recovered and enhanced in the church and, on the wider scene, its value as a musical instrument capable of conveying a wide repertoire of musical expressions.

Bryan affirmed the importance of his role in leading congregational hymn singing, finding appropriate accompaniment to express the mood and meaning of the words being sung, and in accompanying the choir to express the truth of anthems by providing the support needed to increase singers’ confidence in the words they share with the congregation.

Bryan’s education—a BS in computer science and an MBA—took him to a primary career in IT with the US Air Force and companies such as Westinghouse, KPMG, BAE and Lockheed Martin. His love of church music took him to a wide range of churches: a Baptist church in Ormond Beach, FL, a Presbyterian church in Fairfax, VA, a United Methodist church in Manassas, VA, and more recently Burnt Store Presbyterian in Punta Gorda, leading church worship through the Covid disruption of recent years.

The Session of Christ Church enthusiastically endorsed the search committee’s nomination of Bryan to be our Organist and Accompanist, and he will begin with us on July 31. I’m sure he will be warmly welcomed in our midst.

In the meantime, let us note with appreciation the service our two most recent musicians, Kathleen Semisch and Susan Crumpler, have generously given us in readily accepting Robert Romanski’s invitation to play for services. It is great that these ladies continue to worship with us, and greater still that we can continue to enjoy their music. We are grateful and blessed!

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



If reading the Bible is difficult for you, download this App. You get one verse a day sent to you that you can think on all day and memorize so that you can plant God's Word in your heart.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets on **Wednesdays** at **10:00 a.m.** in the **Office Building Meeting Room**. Our current topic is "The Son of David—Seeing Jesus in the Historical Books." This video study of the Old Testament books, Joshua through Esther, gives a fresh perspective on Israel's history and God's kingdom and a broader understanding of Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture. This study ends on August 3.

The next study will begin on August 10 ~ "Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. In this eight-session video study, we will discover why "Mere Christianity" is one of the most read and beloved Christian books of all time. It explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together. To register, contact Vivian Chester,

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY is finished for the summer. Join us again in September.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - Bags are available for parents/grandparents to pick up each Sunday to use at home to talk about God and how Jesus loves them. Included are stickers, coloring books, a cross, and a short story based on the scripture read that Sunday.



"Be anxious for nothing but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." ~ Phil 4:6

May we pray for you?

The Christ Church prayer chain is committed to lifting you up in times of difficulty and giving thanks and praise in times of gladness. You can be assured our team keeps your requests in the strictest of confidence.

If you have a need or praise for which you would like prayer, contact either of our prayer chain coordinators:

Karen Jennings
Shirley Venkataraman

Gave The Date

**WALK WITH US
ON LBK!**

Once again Christ Church will be
"Making Strides Against Breast Cancer"

Saturday, October 22

to benefit the American Cancer Society.

We will be walking from the Paradise Center on
Bay Isles Road, LBK. They are hosting the event.

More information to follow

Contact Sue Wertman with any questions-
quackbf@aol.com

**Please join our team and/or make
a donation**



**FRIENDS ARE THE
PEOPLE WHO MAKE
YOU SMILE BRIGHTER,
LAUGH LOUDER
AND LIVE BETTER.**





Thirty members of Christ Church met for a delicious lunch and vibrant fellowship at Swordfish Grill on June 15. It was truly a summer's afternoon delight!



We as Christians, are called to go out and be fishers of people (Matthew 4:19).

In the 21st Century, there are new ways to do that. Live streaming our services is one great thing for people who are unable to attend.

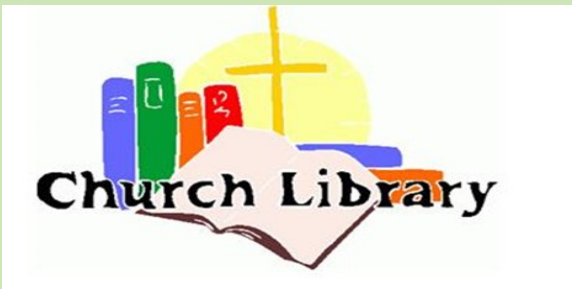
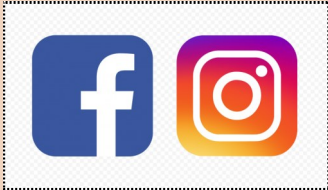
We need to foster relationships through Facebook and our website. In March, 1,800 people saw our page which was a 73% increase from the previous month. The first place a newcomer will go to evaluate our church is to the website and to Facebook (FB). They want to get a feel for the life and values of our church.

When a person engages in a FB or Instagram post, your neighbors, friends, relatives, and new comers may think, "well Mary loves this church, maybe I should try it!" So please feel free to respond to our posts with an emoji and/or make comments.



"Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul."

PSALM 143:8



Highlighted Collections for August and September

Want to draw nearer to God? Browse the Spirituality selections in our Faith Collection. Experience joy and grace as you discover more of the wonderful, spirit-filled life. Find diverse ways to live in the presence of God with authors such as Ann Lamott, John Ortberg and Priscilla Shirer.

Three Florida authors, Randy Wayne White, Carl Hiaasen and Stuart Woods, provide mysterious and humorous tales of life in our state to entertain you. Also on the Highlighted Collections bookcase, you will find novels and nonfiction accounts of the role that Art has played in life and history.

Don't forget to check out our "New to Us" sections for the latest fiction and nonfiction additions to our collections. Jigsaw puzzles, audiobooks and DVDs also available.

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

Gratitude From Our Mission Partners

First half mission checks have been sent to our Mission Partners. Following are some of the expressions of thanks directed to the church from recipients:

Agape Flights: Where to begin? Let's begin with praising our Father for His grace, and thanking Christ Church for your gift to Agape Flights. Together, let's praise Him for a Risen Savior.

As much as the violence and total loss of Agape's passenger plane in Haiti hurts our hearts, we are standing firm in God's faithfulness while remembering Agape doesn't stop because of circumstances. Please pray for us as we seek to follow God's plan to replace His plane for His glory throughout this ministry.

Thank you Christ Church for "flying us forward" and sharing Agape love. Stay tuned for the rest of God's story – to His glory.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry: Your gift to Beth-El has helped provide rent and mortgage assistance to 110 families. This means many individuals were able to stabilize their household income. Many of our beneficiaries' income was impacted by Covid-19, reduced work hours in the fields, and limited access to child care.

Beth-El hosted a Farmworker Health Fair in January, in partnership with the University of Florida Extension Department and the Wimauma Community Development Corp. Even though it was a cold and rainy day, 80 patients were screened for Chagas' disease (that can be fatal), diabetes, heart conditions, and obesity among other health issues. 30% of those screened were diagnosed with diabetes for the first time. Early diagnoses will assure that patients get the care they need before more serious ailments occur. Your gift helps to make all of this possible.

ECHO: Thank you for your recent gift. We are honored that you have chosen ECHO as a conduit for your generosity as we continue to provide Hope Against Hunger. We recently held a training program amid unrest in West Africa that helped more than 540 people. A woman, Esther, said, "I know it is your God who sent you to open my eyes. We can finally produce without any fear of tomorrow."

It is your giving that enables these trainings and this witness to the goodness of God. As our teams continue to equip small-scale farmers with the tools they need to rise from surviving to thriving in very difficult circumstances, we are grateful for your support.

Harvest House: Thank you Christ Church for supporting Harvest House in our mission to revitalize neighborhoods and transform lives. Your gift ensures that no member of our regional family will ever lack the essential services that Harvest House provides. Because of supporters like you, we served an average of 320 men, women, young adults and children daily in 2021.

Our Daily Bread: Your gift helps us provide a daily mid-day hot meal to 200 of the most needy in our community. Last year, we served 63,000 meals and distributed food to more than 22,400 families through our store, which allows clients to shop for food, frozen meats and fresh produce twice a month.

We are truly blessed to have Christ Church as a partner in our mission of feeding the hungry. We couldn't fulfill our mission without your help.

PC (USA) World Mission: As stewards of all of God's creation we are blessed by your gift to continue God's work through our missionaries – particularly our Missionary to Haiti Cindy Corell. Together we share the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ in both word and deed.

Personal note: *An anonymous attendee of our church often leaves plastic bags of "pop-tops" near the bowl on our mission table. These are taken to a representative who distributes them to two children's hospitals in Florida, where they are turned into cash. This cash helps to treat young children with cancer and other serious diseases. I haven't been able to thank this individual in person, but this will convey a very big THANK YOU for this wonderful donation. Please keep those pop-tops coming.*

Jerry Fox



~ Honoring God by empowering the undernourished with sustainable hunger solutions ~

Mission: Following Jesus by reducing hunger and improving lives worldwide through partnerships that equip people with agricultural resources and skills.

ECHO is a Christian non-profit organization that equips small-scale farmers, missionaries, and development workers worldwide to combat hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. ECHO actively investigates, teaches, and promotes solutions to agricultural problems and seeks innovative ways to grow food in difficult conditions.

To learn more, visit: echonet.org



Mobility Worldwide is a faith-based, volunteer-powered, humanitarian, and world-wide organization reflecting the love of God by bringing the gift of mobility and dignity to those in developing countries who are unable to walk.

Mobility Worldwide began in 1994 when Larry Hills, missionary in Zaire (now Congo), Africa told of the great need for three-wheeled, hand-cranked wheelchairs for victims of polio and landmines. Earl Minor, product designer and long-time friend and mission partner began the process of the prototype design.

In 2019, Mobility Worldwide celebrated the 25th Anniversary of its founding. To find out more or how you can help, visit: www.mobilityworldwide.org



Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies provides meals, snacks, drinks, bread and other non-perishable foods to homeless children and children living in food deprived households.

The Bradenton Elks and Lakewood Ranch/Sarasota Elks have a community project that provides food to homeless children ages five to twelve in a backpack program over 38 school weekends. While these kids are eligible to receive reduced cost or free lunch at school, many do not have food over the weekend. In Manatee County, there are over 2,000 children who living in food deprived households.

To donate, visit www.bradentoneleks1511.org



~**Providing, Facilitating and Coordinating services to the Homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless in Manatee County**~

The Turning Points team provides friendly, caring, compassionate assistance to people that come for help with a wide variety of issues. Turning Points provides a remarkable variety of free services designed to assist individuals and families on their path to financial stability and independence. They provide day resource services, employment services, rental and utility assistance, veteran's services, and free medical and dental care for the uninsured. Over 7,000 people received assistance last year. To donate or volunteer, call (941) 747-1509.



Hope Seeds was founded in 1999 as a Christian Charitable ministry to increase food security in developing nations and in 2020 expanded to further support local community education and garden projects in the USA.

Mission: Sharing the love of Christ and reducing hunger through worldwide partnerships, empowering people with sustainable food production skills, seeds, and resources.

Goal: Reach the most vulnerable through extensive experience in vegetable seed variety selection and community development. Seeds are selected specifically for the culture and environment they are intended. Hope Seeds also provides advice for community development projects and ideas for sustainable food production.

Look for volunteer opportunities here at CCLBK or visit www.hopeseeds.org

GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Our Daily Bread of Bradenton was established in 1984 in response to the community’s need to feed the hungry regardless of race, color, or belief. Since then, Our Daily Bread has served over 2,000,000 meals.

Their mission is to provide for the nutritional needs of the poor and the needy of our community in the context of compassion and affirmation of their human worth as children of God.

Our Daily Bread is a community-driven organization supported by the churches, foundations, numerous other community-oriented organizations, and most importantly, individuals like you!

There are many ways to get involved including...
Serve. host a Food Drive. Donate.



Beth-El Farmworker Ministry began in 1976 when a small group of Cumberland Presbyterians rented a tiny house in Ruskin and began holding Spanish-language church services for migrant farmworkers. When the families came to worship, their many other needs were obvious: they were usually hungry, often cold in winter, some slept in cars or trucks, many could neither read nor write, and most lived in fear of deportation. In its effort to meet some of those needs, Beth-El grew.

Now legally a nonprofit corporation, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry has a 27 acre site on U.S. 301 about 20 miles south of Tampa. The Ministry serves the nearby rural population.

They help the community every Tuesday 2:00—6:00 with a Food Pantry supporting 80,000 individuals annually, weekly farm visits to take non-perishable food, paper goods, personal hygiene kits and clothing to farm workers, and Lunch at the Farms where they partner with organizations to serve warm lunch to farmworkers at the field.



In 1992, Pastors Jim and Peggy Minor founded Harvest House with just 6 beds for men in recovery from substance abuse. Today, Harvest House has 9 supportive housing campuses and 25 affordable rental encompassing 400+ beds and serves more than 1,000 individuals annually. Their programs are not a handout. Instead, they offer a hand-up to those willing to engage and work towards independence. They believe that personal responsibility is a key component of success for the families, youth, veterans, and individuals they serve.

Harvest House vision is to ignite a revolution, compelling individuals to live beyond fear into their best life, fulfilling their destiny. Participants will move from fear and anxiety to confidence and freedom. “We want to be the last transitional center an individual or family enters. “



For over 200 years, Presbyterians have been responding to the call of Jesus Christ. They partner with congregations, mid councils, worshipping communities, mission networks and many other groups to nurture and support Christ’s disciples wherever The Holy Spirit leads. The Presbyterian Mission Agency is faithfully working to inspire, equip and connect the Presbyterian Church (USA) to serve Christ in the world through communities of faith, hope, love and witness.

Presbyterian Mission’s goal is to inspire, equip and connect the church in three main areas: evangelism and discipleship, servant leader formation, and justice and reconciliation.



It started with a love of God. A love of people. A love to serve. Keith and Clara Starkey saw firsthand the transformative power of the love and care of Christ as they worked alongside missionaries in Haiti. That is why they stepped out in faith, bought an aircraft, turned their home into a mail and cargo center and chose the name “Agape” for this Christian aviation ministry.

In a world where resources are few and the infrastructure is sparse, Agape Flights’ timely deliveries of mail and supplies are vital to sustain missionary families and their ministries.

Hundreds of mission partners rely on Agape Flights to transport the mail and supplies they need while living and working on the mission field in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the Bahamas.

Agape Flights is an important stateside connection for missionaries — by serving as their “home” address, Agape provides dependable mail service and the personalized cargo service the missionaries need. Agape Flights also:

- ⇒ Expedites relief supplies during disasters and emergencies
- ⇒ Delivers humanitarian aid into Cuba as regulations allow

Between 30 and 60 volunteers each week provide much of the labor that makes things happen at Agape Flights. Each year, volunteers provide over 11,000 hours of labor in areas such as mail sorting, shopping, cargo preparation, reception, filing, maintenance and construction.

a New Plane for Agape Flights

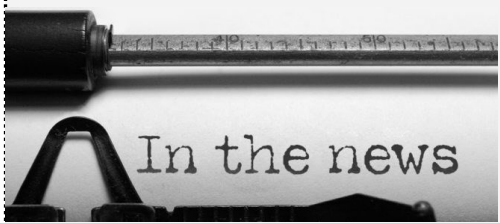
After the tragic burning of Agape Flight’s airplane in Haiti earlier this year, our Mission Partner ended June celebrating and praising God for Agape’s newest aircraft, now at Venice Airport.

Thanks to donations that came in from all over the country, Agape was able to purchase a Reims F406 Cessna Caravan II, a replacement for the burned-out Chieftain. Today, the exact aircraft Agape asked all of its friends to pray about sits in the hanger...and it is paid in full.

As Agape says: “What was meant for evil, God is turning for good and His Glory.”

The next couple of months will be spent prepping the plane and training pilots to use this beautiful new ministry tool while Agape continues its weekly mission flights to Haiti and elsewhere in the Embraer. Agape added: “We can’t wait to see what God is going to do through this aircraft.”





\$94,000 donation leaves a lasting mark at Christ Church

From the LBK Observer on July 12, 2022, by Lesley Dwyer, Staff Writer.

An act of kindness in the will of a former town resident led to a \$94,000 surprise for Christ Church of Longboat Key's mission group.

The group's chair, Jerry Fox, said no one saw the gift coming, and all he could say about their deceased benefactor was that the man lived on Longboat Key but moved to the mainland in later years and that she was a founding member of the church more than 15 years ago.

The church's mission supports local and worldwide organizations. This year's annual budget is \$142,000.

"We didn't want to simply parcel it out to the 12 or 14 we normally fund. We thought we should do something different with it," Fox said.

The church focused on organizations that serve the homeless and requested proposals. One year later, the impact of one donation can be seen throughout the local community and as far away as the Bahamas.

Hope Seeds is the only international organization to receive a grant. They were awarded \$13,000 to expand their program beyond Africa and Haiti and into the Bahamas. The organization says hunger is "the world's most solvable crisis." They provide seeds and agricultural education to impoverished communities.

The local agencies to receive grants were Our Daily Bread, Turning Points and Harvest House.

Our Daily Bread in Bradenton received \$25,000 to retrofit a house for food storage. The house needed a new roof and had to be tented for insects. They also paved around the exterior to create additional parking and to grade the blacktop up to the door. Now, pallets of food can easily be rolled in and out.

Donations prior to this one paid for the house adjacent to their food pantry and kitchen, but this donation paid for the needed repairs at a time when Goodwill had over 200,000 pounds of extra food. ODB was able to accept it without having to line the halls of their main building with cans of green beans and jars of peanut butter.

"Of course we could have started loading it in here, but it sure made it awfully convenient to buy that building and for their help in doing the roof, blacktop and the tenting," President Mark McLaughlin said.

ODB serves hot meals 364 days a year to about 200 people per day. The pantry typically services 220 people a week. Outside of eight part-time employees, the entire administration and staff are volunteers.

ODB shares a parking lot with Turning Points. Each organization is its own entity but their proximity creates a convenient compound of resources. Christ Church gave TP \$20,000 to pay one year's salary for a clinic outreach coordinator. The one-year marketing blitz resulted in 809 new patients.

"We have all these services, and we want people to know if you may have lost your job during COVID," Director of Dawson Margi Dawson said. "We know how much health care expenses are. If you don't have any healthcare, Turning Points is an option."

In addition to the medical and dental clinics, there is also a pharmacy on site. Patients must be uninsured and between the ages of 18 and 64 with an income up to 200% of the poverty level guidelines, which equates to about \$12 an hour, Dawson said. "So that covers a lot of working people."

Harvest House focused on the future workforce and spent their \$35,000 grant on their youth center. "We need to raise about \$80,000-\$85,000 a year," said CEO Erin Minor. The anonymous donation covered about five months of operating expenses, including the salaries of one case manager and one outreach youth liaison.

There is no cost to youths between ages 16 and 24. Some are fresh out of foster care and have no place to go. Others have dealt with instability at home due to substance abuse and violence. It's a drop-in center where they can eat, shower, do laundry, and charge electronics. They're provided help applying for jobs and filling out college applications.

"Our goal is to ultimately get them housed and employed," Minor said.

The anonymous donor left his donation in the right hands. Charitable bequests reduce estate taxes, but more importantly, they make a lasting difference.

The Christ Church Mission Program

The majority of Christ Church's donations stay within Sarasota and Manatee counties, but they also support four international organizations. Mission efforts combine financial and hands-on giving with a focus on the hungry and homeless.

To donate to the Christ Church Mission Program, visit ChristChurchOfLBK.org/give, or call 383-8833.

