

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



TO:



Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor  
Dr. Fred Frinks, Honorary Parish Associate  
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OFFICE HOURS:  
Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 - 1:00



The Pastor’s Page

More Than ‘Back to Normal’

By Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor

A Happy New Year to all our members and friends! I hope and pray that 2023 will see us flourish as a congregation, enjoy the opportunities God sets before us and grow in our faith, our trust, our mission and service!

In one of the congregations I previously served, an interesting situation developed when two key members of staff announced within a day of one another that they were resigning their positions. Both had excellent reasons behind their departures, and neither knew of the other’s intentions, so the timing was pure coincidence. That didn't stop the rumor machine from kicking into top gear, although this was many years before fake news became a thing. Many people assumed that their departure signaled serious trouble within the staff and convincing them otherwise proved difficult.

“What's happening at the church?" people asked, and soon the rumors took flight. Happily, sanity soon took over and I remember my gratitude when a highly respected member of the congregation said in a meeting, “What's happening at the church? I'll tell you what's happening at the church: life's happening!” He spoke about how often life brings changes and challenges. His comments allowed the staff members’ reasons for resigning to be heard and eventually understood and accepted. The rumors soon subsided.

I found myself recalling that incident last year and, with it, John Lennon's famous remark that life is what happens when you've made other plans, as I began to think of 2022 as ‘the year of the three secretaries.’! Kathy Butler retired after years of outstanding service, Susan Scott joined us with an impressive resume and plans to settle in Sarasota, then her life circumstances changed and she felt forced to resign. We were happy to find her replacement when Nancy Prezbindowski joined the staff. Incidentally, Kathy Butler could not have been more helpful in coming back to the office and helping both of her successors with orientation and settling in!

That should have been sufficient upheaval for one year, but as 2022 drew to a close, it acquired an additional moniker, ‘the year of the three organists’!! Jeremy Silverman had resigned early in the summer and after a careful search we appointed Bryan Cordell as accompanist and organist. Unfortunately, Hurricane Ian raged through Florida in the fall, and did considerable

damage to Bryan’s home. Bryan has found the hassles of finding tradesmen, organizing schedules and overseeing all the necessary work amounted to more than the equivalent of a full time job and Bryan felt he needed to resign, which we accepted with regret. Christmas Day was his last service with us.

A search for Brian's replacement began and several candidates who had not been available earlier in the year now offered for consideration, and the search committee soon settled on Chris Westfall, a musician not entirely unknown to us. In addition to his extensive experience in other churches. Chris had featured on two previous occasions as a recitalist in our concert series, and has actually accompanied choir practice on an earlier occasion too! So there was considerable satisfaction in the committee when he accepted the position and Session confirmed the appointment at our December meeting. Chris will begin with us at the end of January. Here too, we have been fortunate that Chris’s predecessors, Kathleen Semisch and Susan Crumpler have been very helpful in various ways, for which we are very grateful.

Members will understand that a considerable amount of work lay behind all of these searches: finding candidates, checking references, holding interviews by phone and in person Leading to the selection of a successful candidate. Bob Elwell, Chair of Session’s Personnel Committee, has accordingly had a busier year than, I suspect, all of his predecessors combined! His has been a wonderful piece of service! For the music search he was joined by Diana Neely, Chair of the Worship Committee , and Lutie Uihlein, (and our thanks to both!) with the Director of Music and the Pastor as non-voting consultants.

No doubt we will find times in 2023 when we go through experiences with life and other plans, but if we bring to those challenges the faith and commitment we have seen in 2022, and trust in God’s unchanging faithfulness, we will find blessing and purpose. Certainly God has been unfailingly good in leading us thus far as a congregation, and I am confident of his grace and goodness for this new year. We have so much to be grateful for and so much to rejoice in together!



# Your Mission \$ at Work

## Christ Church Helps Selah Freedom Expand Reach



From left, Connor LaGrange of the Patterson Foundation; Stacey Efaw and Laurie Swink of Selah Freedom; Jerry Fox of Christ Church.

Photo by Leslie Dwyer of Longboat Observer

Thanks to the generosity of Christ Church members and friends, and an increase in mission funding in 2022 from the retirement of church bonds, our church was able to fully match a \$50,000 challenge grant by the Patterson Foundation to help Selah Freedom start an important new initiative.

Selah Freedom – which serves survivors of sex trafficking in our area – is expanding a new program to help start trafficking survivor programs throughout the country. This year alone, Selah has received 60 phone calls from around the country and Canada on how best to set up a program in their region. Selah will now have a dedicated staff designed to help other cities establish a successful survivor program.

The new initiative will offer both digital training course curricula as well as actual hands-on assistance to develop a residential program that is safe, sustainable and successful. Such programs offer trauma therapy, counseling services, a safe place to live, life skills, and assistance on educational and employment goals. Selah Freedom is acknowledged throughout the country as a successful model for dealing with trafficking survivors. 87% of program graduates never return to the streets.

This new endeavor of Selah Freedom can be a game-changer in terms of the constant battle against sex trafficking and the abuse of young girls throughout the country.

In acknowledging the \$50,000 grant, Executive Director Stacey Efaw said “Donors like Christ Church are the lifeblood of Selah Freedom, and Selah Freedom is the lifeline to survivors of sex trafficking. Thank you so much!”

**Mark your calendar: March 15 Mission Dinner will feature Selah Freedom**

Prayer

*“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 ~**



The next **Men's Club** meeting is **Monday, January 9, 2023**. Ms. Amber Lamerson, Development Officer for the Sarasota Bay Conservancy will be our featured speaker. This non-profit organization is working with the city of Sarasota to create a new signature park. This project is transforming 53 acres of precious city-owned land directly on the Bay into a blue and green oasis, revitalizing what is now a parking lot by the Van Wezel into a dynamic public space. Designed to be “one park for all”. Plan to join us and hear more about this project.

We are also delighted to announce that **Breakfast is back on the agenda**, as Fred Lugano has volunteered to be chief cook. As a result, we will be starting at **8:00 a.m.** with coffee and conversation. If you are interested, please sign up at the Activities Table in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.



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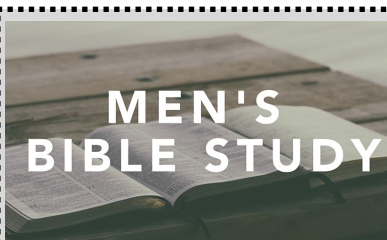
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**Women's Bible Study** is held on **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.** in the Office Building Meeting Room.

Our current study is "Sermon on the Mount" by Jen Wilkin, which will resume on January 4.

To register and obtain a study guide, contact Vivian Chester .



**MONDAYS**  
**at 9:00 a.m.,**  
**we meet in**  
**Fellowship**  
**Hall (except**  
**on the**  
**Mondays**

**when Men's Clubs meets).**

**In addition to meeting in person at church,**  
**we will also be including a Zoom option.**

**To sign up, please contact Tom Crawford.**

Connection Class is **Sunday, January 22**, for people interested in learning more about membership (full or affiliate) at Christ Church and for those who recently joined. Pastor Norman will lead the discussion in the Choir Room after the Sunday service.

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or contact Joyce Wartinbee

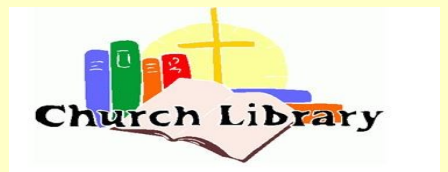






### CCLBK BELL RINGERS

Thank you to Christ Church! We had 29 church members and friends ring the Salvation Army bell at Publix. You did an amazing 87 shifts; 46% of the total shifts. Special thanks to Bob Benz, Barbara and Jon Grimes, Mike McCullough, Ann Quackenbush, Cash Register, and John Wild for doing numerous shifts. The time you spent helps hundreds. We are blessed by all of you who rang the bell.



### A Happy, Blessed New Year to You

Want to know more about the tenets of our Presbyterian beliefs or how others came to their individual beliefs about faith? Our Faith selections, 230 in the Faith and Spiritual Growth collection, offer short summaries of theology for Presbyterians, attempts to define the heart of Christianity and explores the many reasons for our beliefs. Be comforted and strengthened in knowing what and why you believe.

Our entire collection on **Knitting** will be on display in honor of the many CCLBK individuals who knit to provide prayer shawls, teddy bears, hats and more for those who can benefit from this outpouring of love. If you have any books on this subject to donate, they would be most welcome as our knitters are asked to take on an ever increasing range of projects.

We also are highlighting a much beloved Italian author, Andrea Camilleri, whose writing career took off at age 69. His main character, Inspector Montalbano, became a mainstay of Italian television and then gained international acclaim. Sicilian culture and gourmet seafood add richness to these crime novels.

Recent best sellers, DVDs, family games and children's books are always available to borrow.

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



### Prayer Shawl

The **Prayer Shawl Knitting Group** is back! Please join us on **Fridays at 10:30 a.m.** We meet in the Conference Room in the church office building.





You will be receiving a pledge card in the mail. Please know that your support, both time and money, helps sustain and grow our worship, fellowship, and outreach programs.

Thank you for your commitment to CCLBK.

Mark Hausberg, Grateful Giving Chair



Next meeting is **Wednesday, January 18**, at **1:00 p.m.** in the Conference Room. The book to be discussed is "Demon Copperhead" by: Barbara Kingsolver.

February 15: "Horse"  
by Geraldine Brooks

March 15: "Mad Honey"  
by Jodi Piccoul

## BRIDGE CLUB

Join us in the Café Area  
on **Tuesdays** at 1:30 p.m.



All levels of players are  
welcome!

## Annual Meeting, January 29

The Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation will be held **following worship** on **Sunday, January 29**.

At this meeting, the Treasurer, John Shehorn, will present financial reports for 2022 and Ann Quackenbush, Chair of the Nominating Committee, will present nominations for Elders, Deacons and Members-at-large of the Nominating Committee for 2023. It is typically not a long meeting, but it is an important one in which the Session, the congregation's leadership, makes itself accountable to our members.



Here are the three concert dates and names of the performers for our 2023 series. All concerts are free and begin and **2:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited!

- \* **JANUARY 8** - Devon Meddock. Don't miss the Darling of Manhattan. We are proud to feature this well-known singer, actor, and multi-instrumentalist based in New York City. Her concert will be wide-ranging and heart-touching. And, she may even surprise us by having her all-time favorite student, ALEXA LOWREY, join her for a few selections. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors - this event will be One for The Ages.
- \* **FEBRUARY 19** - The Cleveland Celtic Ensemble
- \* **MARCH 5** - Todd Donovan and Dale Williams



January 10 and 31  
February 14 and 28  
March 14 and 28  
April 11 and 25

We encourage anyone interested to please come and join our group. All are welcome, both new and seasoned players. Any questions? Contact Bonnie Wright.

## READING BUDDIES CHRISTMAS PARTY



Santa's elves shopped, chopped, then cooked a wonderful dinner  
for the Reading Buddies and their families.

Many hours went into making this a truly festive evening! Thank you!



To Our Dear Reading Buddies and CCLBK Fellowship,

Last night was truly a blessed night. There is no possible way to effectively thank you all for your generosity and commitment to the Dream Center, our families, and community.

CCLBK and our Reading Buddies are a beacon of light and God's Love. Your contributions in the lives of our youth and their families are immeasurable. We are filled to the brim with hope and gratefulness.

Again, we cannot **Thank You** ALL enough in words; however, I can promise you this from my heart. As long as the Dream Center has your support, the lives of at-risk youth and their families will be positively impacted and indescribably better.

Happy Holidays and God's Blessing to All!!

Blessings,

Dr. Derrick L. Randall, MSW  
Chief Executive Officer



## Sarasota Boat Parade & CCLBK Fellowship

On a cool evening at Ken Thompson Park, thirty plus intrepid CCLBK members and friends gathered at the waterfront to share delicious appetizers and good times. Numerous boats of all sizes cruised by our prime viewing site as part of a surprisingly chaotic start to the Sarasota Holiday Boat Parade. As you can see, the captivating light displays were a feast for the eyes, producing the perfect backdrop for our evening of fellowship and tempting foods.



Once again this year we held a drive-thru **Food and Toy Drive for Our Daily Bread** the end of November. Thanks to you, our members and friends, we delivered 10 bikes, lots of toys and loads of food.

Last year about 100 children received a Christmas present and we know they will be overjoyed again this year.

Thank you to all our dedicated and generous volunteers. You are a Blessing to us all. Happy New Year!

## Thank YOU Christ Church Members & Friends

YOU brought joy to so many children and families this Christmas. In sharing, YOU modeled Christ's message to love your neighbors and help those in need.

YOU brought joy to 118 children and families at Beth-El Migrant Farmworker Ministry, including more than 30 Stand-Up-For-Success Beth-El community youth either attending college or working toward college.

YOU provided gifts to 126 children, youth and families that are homeless; but living at Harvest House they are getting needed counseling and other help to become productive citizens Included were 20 abused women now living at the Russo Campus of Harvest House.

YOU gave gifts to the 67 girls (and a few boys) at Selah Freedom. These mostly young people were victims of sex trafficking and felt unloved. YOU let them know that God Loved them and you loved them too. These survivors are being helped at Selah and their future is bright.

Thank YOU for bringing light into the worlds of 311 adults, youth and children with Christmas Season, with love from Christ Church.

And a very grateful thanks to the women knitters in our church who provided cute bears and harm hats to recipients. Some 42 bears were given to children under five years of age plus two bags of warm caps went to the girls at Selah Freedom.

**HOPE SEEDS** helps reduce hunger in 15 countries around the world by providing garden seed so that those in need are able to plant vegetables and herbs. Families can then eat the harvest and can sell any left overs to make a small income.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US at one of our monthly packing events. Our 2023 packing dates are: January 16, February 6, March 20 and April 17; 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. You will find fellowship and friendship within our group. Questions: Ann Quackenbush.

**THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR,  
AND THAT IS YOU, OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Mark your calendars for **January 18 at 5:00pm.** Our first **Wednesday Night Dinner** program will feature one of our favorite groups, the **Braden River High School Chorus.** Their performances are always entertaining and fun. This year the Chorus will be competing in the Smoky Mountain Music Festival in Gatlinburg, TN.

Sign-up will be at the Activities Table.

Please note: **the last Sunday to sign up will be January 8.** Questions? Call Lutie Uihlein.

## DINEAROUND





# JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00 am WORSHIP	2	3	4 10:00 am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (WBS)	5	6 10:30 am KNITTING CA	7
8 10:00 am WORSHIP  2:00 pm WINTER CONCERT	9 8:30 am MEN'S CLUB FH	10 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA 1:30 pm CANASTA	11 10:00 am WBS	12 READING BUDDIES	13 10:30 am KNITTING CA	14
15 10:00 am WORSHIP  Stewardship Sunday	16 9:00 am Men's Bible Study (MBS) FH 1:00 pm - FH HOPE SEEDS	17 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA	18 10:00 am WBS	19	20 10:30 am KNITTING CA	21
22 10:00 am WORSHIP CONNECT CLASS Stewardship Sunday	23 9:00 am MBS - FH  1:00 pm DEACONS CR	24 9:00 am SESSION CR 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA	25 10:00 am WBS	26 READING BUDDIES	27 10:30 am KNITTING CA	28
29 10:00 am WORSHIP  Annual Meeting  Stewardship Sunday	30 9:00 am MBS - FH	31 1:30 pm BRIDGE - CA 1:30pm CANASTA				CR-Conference Room FH-Fellowship Hall MR-Meeting Room