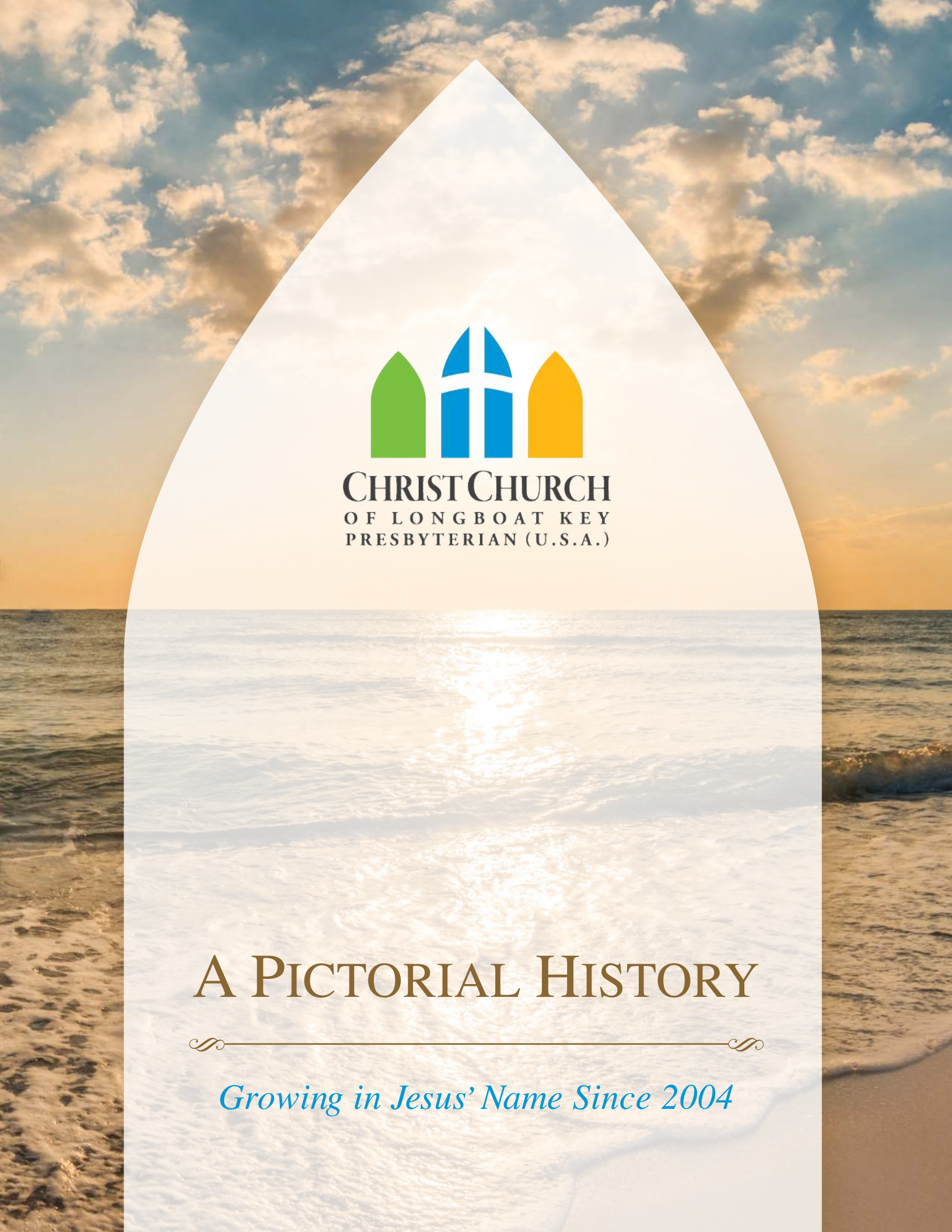


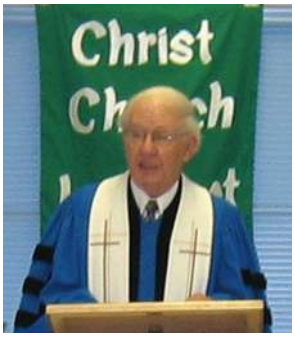
CHRIST CHURCH
OF LONGBOAT KEY
PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

A Pictorial History

Growing in Jesus' Name Since 2004

A Celebration of the
10th Anniversary
of the Dedication of
Christ Church of Longboat Key

JANUARY 19, 2022



Ray Woody

Pastor Part Time 2005 - 2006

Ray Woody is the beloved Founding Father of Christ Church. Following his distinguished service with numerous churches in Florida, he retired from First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. He was then invited to lead the new congregation at Christ Church of LBK. Under his creative leadership, our church became an independent congregation before joining the Presbyterian Church Family.



Bruce Porter

Stated Supply Pastor 2006 - 2013

After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, Bruce served ministries in New York State and Pennsylvania before retiring after 20 years as the Pastor Emeritus for the Church of the Palms in Sarasota. He then joined Christ Church and served for seven years. The congregation grew in membership, our permanent church property was purchased, and the new worship and education were built. He and his wife, Virginia, have fond memories of their time with us before his retirement in 2013.



Norman Pritchard

Stated Supply Pastor 2014 - Present

Norman Pritchard's ministry has taken him across the world. He served two congregations in his native Scotland before he became the Senior Minister of the Scots Church in Melbourne, Australia for 16 years. Called to the States, he served as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff for the Kirk of the Hills, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, for 19 years. Retiring from full-time ministry in 2014, he accepted an invitation to pastor Christ Church of Longboat Key. Norman and his wife, Joan, have been hardworking partners in the life of our church.

History of Christ Church of Longboat Key

Time Capsule Letter - January 15, 2012

PRESBYTERIAN, USA (1/2005 to 1/2013)

Our present church was started by a group who were members of the Longboat Island Chapel. On January 9, 2005, a vote had been taken at the Chapel to continue with the present minister. We did not like the direction the Chapel was heading and decided to move on. It was assumed we would scatter to the various churches in the area, but Ginny Dreher called and suggested we try to stay together and worship as a group.

Immediately, a group of about 25 people decided to form their own church. The group included Tom Beckett, Bill Buckley, Bert and Mary Ellen Christie, John Dixon, Dick Evans, Wayne Meyers, Sally and George Rauch, Dan Steiner, and Jill Wilson, among others. A few days later, Bert and Mary Ellen Christie rented the Longboat Key Recreation Center and offered it as a place to meet.

No decision had been made as to what denomination, if any, the group advocated, just that the members wished a more traditional Christ-centered church.

On January 16, 2005, the group met for Sunday services at the Longboat Key Recreation Center, with 59 people present. On February 23, the Rev. Dr. H. Ray Woody, retired Presbyterian minister from First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota and the Siesta Key Presbyterian Church, joined the group as pastor by unanimous vote of those meeting. Our first vision statement was written.

What a trooper he was! We had no pulpit and our lectern was an upside down cardboard box draped with a cloth. We brought in vases filled with flowers for the table and before each service volunteers would set up folding chairs and remove them when the service ended. Debbie Bellas oversaw serving coffee and cookies from the kitchen counter.

On April 3, 2005, the first Board of Directors was elected, which included Bill Buckley, President; Tom Beckett, Treasurer; Jill Wilson, Secretary; and Directors Barbara Bishop, Nick Cuccia, Bob Eldredge, Helen Elliott, and Jack Hunkele.

During those first couple of months we were growing and realized we needed more organization, so committees were established for membership, communication, and worship.

Now it was beginning to look like we had the seed for a new church to take root, but that meant we had some decisions to make. We had come from a non-denominational church, but did we want to stay non-denominational or join a denomination? If so, which one? Remember, the Chapel was a non-denominational church which was considered the root of the problem.

At this time, an official directory and membership was formed and the offertory and collection plate was begun. Prior, out-of-pocket expenses were covered randomly. The original list of “Charter Members” is attached. This list includes many additional people added to the very first small group that left the chapel. This small group had left behind family memories and memorials, making the transition extremely difficult.

Meanwhile, John Dixon, with the help of some other people, invited pastors from different denominations to speak with us. Besides PCUSA, which we eventually became, we heard from the Congregational church, PCAmerican, and an independent Christian church in Bradenton. We ruled out the Episcopal church, as they were already on the Key and the Lutheran church, as they were on St. Armands. The Methodists ruled us out – they said they had no interest in a church on a barrier island due to cost of their requirements.

Throughout all this, Ray Woody was continuing to preach to us and by the end of March, we had 134 people attending and had run out of chairs – a nice problem to have! Due to space problems, we had to hold our first Easter service at the Longboat Key Club and Bruce Porter was our preacher that Sunday.

Realizing that the new church needed a larger home, a search of the island for more permanent space had begun. The only place meeting this criteria was the Mediterranean Plaza building behind the Publix Market. Occupied by businesses, including a large

Continued on next page…

management company and a dentist, the owners were hesitant about renting to a church. After several weeks, the owner contacted us and said that they would rent space to the church with several requirements. One requirement was that we couldn't hold any type of services or events during the week or before 6:00 p.m. on weekdays. This limited our use to a point, but we had no choice due to the congregation gaining in size. Our lease was signed in July 2005, for ten years, which amounted to some $100,000.00 per year, including rent around $6,000.00, and common area maintenance added to the rest.

It took some five months to construct the space. Transformation of some five business offices, remodeling of the kitchen facility, and purchasing the equipment had to be completed along with color selection, etc. The cost was estimated at $185,000.00 and after two services in May 2005, some $215,000.00 was raised and construction was started.

At this same time, a questionnaire was formulated and mailed to all 107 active members asking about their thoughts on becoming denominated or not (a copy is attached). In a period of two weeks, ninety-six of them were returned and one week later all 107 had been received. Seventy-three would become Presbyterian and thirty-four would stay, but would like no affiliation. Consequently, we became Presbyterian and lost three couples.

The last services were held in the Longboat Key Recreation Center on October 2, 2005, and on October 9, 2005, the first services were held in the new building with Rev. Woody officiating. Attendance averaged about 100 people, per Sunday service, for the first few months.

On December 5, 2005, the new church was dedicated with close to 200 in attendance. Later that month, on December 31, the members of the Board of Directors of Christ Church were elected as the first elders of the first session of the church, and the previous board ceased to exist.

The new session consisted of the following: Tom Beckett, Barbara Bishop, Burt Borgelt, Bill Buckley, Virginia Buss, Nicholas Cuccia, Robert Eldredge, Jack Hunkele, Sally Rauch, Marge Wiegmann, Jill Wilson, and Richard Withington.

The incorporation papers were approved by the State of Florida on February 19, 2006, and on February 23, 2006, Christ Church of Longboat Key became a member of the Peace River Presbytery.

On Sunday, February 26, 2006, 124 members and 14 affiliate members joined the new church as founders or charter members, and a reception in the conference room celebrated the event.

On March 19, 2006, the first session of the new Presbyterian Church was ordained and installed. The members were: Tom Beckett, finance; Barbara Bishop, clerk; Burt Borgelt, building; Bill Buckley, finance; Virginia Buss, worship; Nick Cuccia, membership; Bob Eldredge, worship; Jack Hunkele, community ministries; Sally Rauch, Christian education; Marge Wiegmann, social; Jill Wilson, worship; Dick Withington, personnel. April 30, 2006, was the deadline to accept charter members.

On July 16, Rev. Woody announced from the pulpit that his wife, Pat, had just been diagnosed with cancer, and on August 31, Rev. Woody resigned to spend full-time caring for his wife.

On August 17, 2006, at a session meeting, the Rev. Dr. Bruce W. Porter, retired minister from Church of the Palms in Sarasota, was called to be interim, or stated supply, pastor by unanimous vote of the session. Rev. Porter had been active in the formation of Christ Church.

On October 5, 2006, Rev. Woody announced that his wife's cancer was in remission, in answer to many prayers.

Rev. Dwight Ferguson, a classmate of Rev. Porter at Princeton Theological Seminary, started a Bible study class on October 23, 2006, to meet every other Monday at 4:00 p.m.

On February 15, 2007, a new session was ordained and installed with Bob Eldredge, Jack Hunkele, Sally Rauch, and Jill Wilson, whose terms had expired, being replaced by Bennie Dods, food services; John Dixon, worship chairman; Ginny Dreher, missions; and Ralph Hunter, clerk.

On Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007, well over 200 people attended the service. This prompted the session to consider enlarging the seating and plans were started to look for more space. Committees were formed and it was decided to rent space in the present building for approximately 50 more seats and offices for the staff, by knocking out some walls where the pastor's office was located and expanding the present Sanctuary.

Meanwhile, another committee was looking into purchasing some land on Longboat Key on which to build a new church.

On July 15, 2007, the session approved the expenditure of $36,583 for the alteration of the present space to include additional seating in the Sanctuary and rent additional space for offices for the minister and the secretary, and storage space for the music director. Due to unforeseen expenses, including the installation of a new door, the alterations cost approximately $11,000 more than budgeted.

The remodeling of the added area for office space was finished and occupied October 25, 2007, and work progressed on the increased seating in the Sanctuary. On November 4, 2007, the remodeling was completed and the Sanctuary was enlarged to seat approximately 50 more people; now at a total of 250.

The session unanimously approved a motion to create an endowment fund on November 15, 2007, with Burt Borgelt as President and Tom Beckett as Vice President.

A second Bible study began in January 2008, for sixteen weeks, led by Kay Farmer, in the conference room after Sunday services.

A vision statement of the church was unanimously approved on January 12, 2008. It reads: "We seek to honor God, to draw people to Jesus Christ, and to reach out and meet human needs."

At the congregational meeting on January 20, 2008, the following persons were elected unanimously as elders for three years: Mary Ann Bopp, membership; Jim Huber, personnel; Bill Newhouse, stewardship; and Carol Stanley; replacing Barbara Bishop, Virginia Buss, Marge Weigmann, and Dick Withington, whose three year terms had expired.

On February 12, 2008, the session voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the building committee, Burt Borgelt, chairman, to purchase the building and land at 6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive, along with the three lots adjacent to them, for the sum of $2,565,000. It was also voted to call a congregational meeting on February 24, 2008, to act on the motion to purchase the building and land.

At the congregational meeting on February 24, Chairman Borgelt reviewed the actions of the committee and explained why there was a need for a new church. He said that there were only two alternatives that met the committee's criteria of size, cost, and visibility.

The first was the Mote Marine property on Gulf of Mexico Drive between Jungle Queen Way and Tarawitt Road. Negotiations revealed that Mote wanted $3,000,000 for the land. The committee voted instead to purchase the building and land on 6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive. Borgelt said that the money to purchase the property had already been pledged by the committee, and a building fun drive would be needed at a later date.

Moderator Rev. Porter asked for a motion, which was made by Ginny Dreher. The motion read as follows: "I move that all actions taken and done by the session in negotiations for the purchase of property described as Lots 1C, 2C, 3C, and 4C of Sleepy Lagoon addition at 6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive be ratified, approved, and confirmed."

The motion was seconded and after a round of questions from the floor, the moderator asked for a voice vote. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Borgelt estimated that the closing of the sale would be on or about April 18, 2008.

Once the church had purchased the building at 6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive and the land behind it, it was decided to keep the building and renovate it for meetings on the first floor and a manse upstairs.

Work started immediately, as was a search of an architect. After many interviews, the firm of John Dickerson and Son from the Leesburg, FL, area was selected and numerous meetings followed with the building committee. The committee was made up of Burt Borgelt, Chairman, Susan Borgelt, Jerry Bowles, Bill Buckley, John Dixon, Robert Dods, Van Neely, John Pol, and Pastor Bruce Porter.

The congregation met on February 15, 2009, to view the architect's drawings of the proposed new church and to vote on the plans to finance it. By a unanimous vote, the congregation passed the following resolution: "The congregation of Christ Church of Longboat Key approves the architect's plans as presented and will proceed with a fund drive over three years to raise approximately $1.5 million dollars. Further, if the funds pledged and raised are sufficient, to borrow approximately $1.5 million through a long-term mortgage."

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HISTORY ... *Continued*

On March 1, 2009, the fund drive began, headed by Jerry Bowles, and by March 8, $800,000 in pledges had been received. On March 29, it was announced that the pledges had reached over $1,600,000. The following week, April 5, the figure had grown to $1,842,109 and a celebration was held in the conference room after the service. By July 2009, $1,902,000.00 had been pledged or given over three years with 92% of members and 100% of affiliates participating.

On July 29, 2009, at the Sunday service, Bill Buckley, playing bagpipes, brought in the cross to go on top of the Fund Chart (church) symbolizing the completion and goal of the drive.

Rather than borrow another $2.5 million from a bank, the church decided to sell $25,000.00/share of trust notes to the members, up to a total maximum of thirty-five individuals as allowed by the U.S. Federal Government. These trust notes would receive 4% interest over a three-year period. Within several weeks, this was accomplished.

September 2009, a preliminary permit from the town was awarded to start clearing the property of the trees from the church building and parking area. This was completed by the end of September and permission was sought to start the building.

First, the Building Committee had to come before the town's Planning and Zoning staff and after receiving their approval and suggestions, they had to appear before the town's Planning and Zoning Board.

After a five hour meeting, the Planning and Zoning Board approved the project by a vote of four to two with some members of the Sleepy Lagoon neighborhood objecting vigorously to the parking, drainage, and traffic plans.

The next meeting was before the town commission, on January 4, 2010, and a rehash of all the old objections. After four more hours of arguments by a few of the objectors, the commissioners gave their approval in a unanimous vote of six to zero.

On June 29, 2010, the building permit was issued by the town. Close to $100,000.00 was spent for attorney's fees to work through the town's horrible building code and requirements.

A ground-breaking event was held at the site on March 14, 2010, prior to receiving the permit. Over 100 people attended. Three large buses were hired to transport the congregation to the property.

After approximately two years, the church was officially occupied for the first service on October 23, 2011.

During late construction, Bill Buckley, one of the two on-site church representatives, along with John Pol, retired architect and parishioner, inscribed on the two stone walls on the chancel area, behind each flag, the names of 26 members of the congregation who had passed away during the time of construction. Behind the stone, there are fourteen names on the right pillar and twelve on the left pillar. This was actually done after the special open house the church held for the congregation on April 17, 2011.

On October 23, 2011, we moved from the Bay Isles Road location to the new site and had our first Sunday service in the new Sanctuary. With one service at 10:00 a.m., we had 199 people in attendance.

Bill Buckley, playing bagpipes, lead the congregation and the Rev. Bruce W. Porter through the new mahogany front doors into the Sanctuary. As the pipes entered the Sanctuary, Mrs. Kathleen Semisch, the church pianist/organist, accompanied the pipes. A day which was very memorable and exciting for the church and its entire congregation.

Two months later, January 15, 2012, we held our Dedication Worship Service in our new church. It was a 10:00 a.m. service with 346 people attending.

In closing, this was completed and written by Bill Buckley and typed by Kathy Butler on February 8, 2013, and will be placed in the time capsule, to be installed into the Chancel wall on Sunday, February 17, 2013. It has taken us a year from the Dedication to complete this process and event. Over that time period, we have enjoyed the wonderful worship services, provided by the Rev. Dr. Bruce W. Porter, which have influenced all of our lives with the worshipping of Jesus Christ in this amazing facility of spiritual love for our Lord God.

We, in our beginning days and years of Christ Church of Longboat Key, hope that the spirit is still in this facility and the memories of so many at the beginning are carried forward for many years to come.

God bless this church and all those that serve it for Jesus.

Time Capsule Committee: Bill Buckley, Church Custodian and piper, and Karen Gardiner.

A Letter From Burt Borgelt

Services on January 12, 2020

When a small group of individuals left their present church to start a new church, one of their very first actions was to name their new church Christ Church. That said it all – what they were looking for in a church was a church with Christ at the center.

Early services were held in the austere Longboat Key Rec Center, which featured among other things, hard folding chairs. It is true that the first pulpit was a cardboard box perched upside down on a folding table. Lest you think those assembled lacked class – one of the ladies placed a doily on top of the box.

Great preaching and a congregation that is really a loving family have been a hallmark of Christ Church from its very first services, until this very day.

In the beginning, it was the tag team of the Rev. Ray Woody and the Rev. Bruce Porter, both retired Presbyterian ministers, who spoke on alternate Sundays.

It's true Bill Buckley was elected the congregation's first president. There being no other place on the key, Bill led the congregation in its move to the Mediterranean Plaza office building. Bill did a magnificent job in converting cold office space into a warm, functional church. It's true many of you this morning are sitting on the original chairs from this first church.

The Rev. Ray Woody stepped forward to become our first pastor and led us as we became affiliated with the Presbyterian USA denomination. Our first church secretary came on the scene, thanks to George Rauch, who donated his secretary three days a week. And in time, our first choir director was hired – a man of the Jewish faith – who was also the music director for the temple next door.

Just as we seemed to be really underway, Rev. Woody's wife's health caused him to resign. We were devastated, as you can well imagine. But not for long. Rev. Bruce Porter stepped back into the picture. It's true Bruce told us he would stay three years and ended up staying nine.

And, we started to grow. The office space was awkward for other tenants – as well as the church – parking became an issue. With no other place on the key to go if we lost our lease, we were finished, and we were told it takes a minimum of two years to plan and build a church – if you have the building site.

A Long-range Planning Committee was formed and started looking for a building site of approximately two acres. Weeks and months went by as we looked – only one site, but the owner wanted a ridiculous price.

All of this time, my wife Sue kept telling me about her hairdresser's building being all but empty, and I kept telling her the building was cut up and too small. Finally, one afternoon as we were driving by to get her off my back (figure of speech as most married men can relate to), we drove into the parking lot. As I was pointing out that this wasn't big enough, she was pointing to the for-sale signs on the adjacent lots. The available space on the combined four lots – you guessed it – two acres. Just what we needed.

The Long-range Planning Committee's presentation to the congregation amounted to an offer they couldn't refuse. The committee recommended the purchase of the four properties, and if approved by the congregation, the committee would pay the cost of these lots.

Continued on next page...

A Letter From Burt Borgelt ... *Continued*

Fundraising to build the church building was straight forward. Jerry Bowles and the fun-raising committee decided:

- No professional fund raisers – we are a church family
- No published giving levels (platinum, gold, silver, etc.) – we are a church family
- No naming things – no plaques – we are a church family
- Three-year pledge cards with a letter of explanation on the project. Pledge a dollar or $100,000. All pledges will be treated the same. What you give, only you and God and the church's treasurer, will know. Please return your card in 30 days.

It was about this time we received a copy of a letter sent to the town by the Sleepy Lagoon Property Owner's Association. It started by saying we welcome Christ Church and ended by listing 47 reasons why a church shouldn't be allowed in the neighborhood.

It's true. They stated the corner of General Harris and Gulf of Mexico Drive as having a high incidence of accidents – and the church would only make it worse. Due diligence in examining police accident records showed there was an accident reported at the intersection sixteen years ago – an elderly man fell from his bicycle.

The letter was easy to deal with. The politics were not. They got the highway department to oppose any driveways opening onto Gulf of Mexico Drive. We had to post a bond so the town could turn down any partial building should we fail to complete the church; to submit a detailed landscaping plan; prior to moving, the first shovel of dirt in construction said plants be plant specific; and to post a bond extending to way beyond planting to ensure their growth! – and on and on.

But, here we are. Thanks be to God.

I tell you about difficulties, as there were many more, so that you will know that starting a church was not as easy as just naming the church Christ Church. And then sitting back while God opened doors and parted waters. God doesn't work that way, does he?

I speak for myself and I know many others, when I say our experience in the creation of this church has strengthened our faith.

What has been God's greatest gift to Christ Church? That's easy. All of the good people he has had come through our doors. People who have contributed their time, talents, and yes, financing in making Christ Church possible and a better place.

What's the good news? I believe our best days lay ahead. "As We Grow in Jesus' Name" by:

- Honoring God
- Drawing others to Christ
- Reaching out to meet human needs

Burt Borgelt

2005 ~ 2006

2005 Highlights

- A group of 25 met and voted to form a new church on Longboat Key.
- This group had their first service at the Longboat Key Recreational Center. Rev. Dr. Ray Woody joined as first pastor.
- It was a very informal and casual beginning separate from the church. A cardboard box was the pulpit. Light refreshments were served.
- The congregation grew rapidly, (134 people the first 3 months) so they moved to a space In Mediterranean Plaza on LBK.
- On December 5, the church was dedicated and a new managing committee was formed.

2006 Highlights

- Christ Church became a Presbyterian Church and a member of Peace River Presbytery with 114 members and 14 affiliate members who are the founding or charter members.
- On August 17, the Rev. Dr. Bruce Porter was called to be the stated supply pastor.
- Elders were elected to the Session to oversee the life of the church and organized committees, including finance, building, worship, membership, community ministries, Christian Education, fellowship, and personnel. Since this time, Christ Church has always been serviced by a part time Pastor.











2007 ~ 2008

2007 Highlights

- Endowment Fund established.
- Major increase In Mission donations.
- Instituted Dinearounds.
- Wednesday Night Dinners are popular.
- 157 total members.
- Vision Statement affirmed by Session:

We seek to honor God, to draw people to Jesus Christ, and to reach out and meet human needs.

2008 Highlights

- Congregation voted unanimously to purchase the properties at 6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive for $2.6 million.
- Pastoral Care Aides program initiated.
- John Dickerson and Son, Architects, hired to design our new church.
- Men's Club and Women's Club started.
- Active Season of Worship, Fellowship, and Bible Studies, lead by Stuart Dageish, which resulted in major growth in attendance.
- First baptism in church on April 6, for Jennifer Hailey.













2009 ~ 2010

2009 Highlights

- Preliminary architectural plans for new church and Financial Campaign to raise $1.5 million approved by congregation.
- Our church raised $1.9 million in money and pledges with nearly 100 percent participation of the congregation.
- Approval of our new church building plans by the Longboat Key Planning Commission. (five hour meeting!)
- Year-around support of the Neighborhood Learning (Dream) Center and Christmas Party.

2010 Highlights

- Began construction of new church building Groundbreaking on March 14.
- Estimated cost for land and building: $6.7 million.
- Created a Mortgage Trust to borrow $2.5 million from members over five years.
- Caring Ministry Committee formed.
- Gave $22,000 to local mission projects.
- Active Outside Social Committee.













2011 ~ 2012

2011 Highlights

- Building Committee active in monitoring construction and finances of new church.
- Tour of our new church on Palm Sunday by congregation and friends.
- Session chose the vision statement: “Growing in Jesus’ Name.”
- First Worship Service in new church on October 23.
- Open House for the neighborhood on December 4.
- Eleven Mission causes supported through Peace River Presbytery.

2012 Highlights

- Dedication of our new Church on Sunday, January 14.
- Dedication and Recital of new Rodgers Organ on January 15.
- Our new Library dedicated and opened on April 15.
- Long range Financial Planning Committee formed.
- A Sunday afternoon concert series was instituted and the first three concerts were well attended.
- First Sale Away raised $17,000 for missions with 92 volunteers and 1,200 people attending.
- Children’s Reading Program expanded to include grades 1–3. Reading Buddies assigned to 50 students.
- Because of the number of people attending worship, two services were offered each Sunday from January through Easter.
- Robert Romanski hired as our new Director of Music.

















Photos by Mallory Gnaegy

The sanctuary is close to being finished except for a few minor cosmetic details.

Christ Church opens its doors for first service

After being without a permanent home for five-and-a-half years, Christ Church of Longboat Key, Presbyterian, opened the doors to its new home for a 10 a.m. worship service Sunday, Oct. 23.

"Some were crying," says the Rev. Bruce Porter. "It was really emotional for some of the people."

Porter led a blessing on the porch of the new building, at 6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive, before the 200 people in attendance entered together for the service. The new church was the culmination of about five years of planning and two years of fundraising.

In 2006 the congregation started meeting in the Mediterranean Plaza, and before that they met at the Bayfront Park Recreation Center. In 2007 talk about building a worship facility began, and in 2008 and 2009 the church raised more than $4.5 million. Almost 97% of the congregation gave funds toward the new building, Porter said. In August 2010, they held a ground-breaking ceremony.

Today, the church is more than 95% finished.

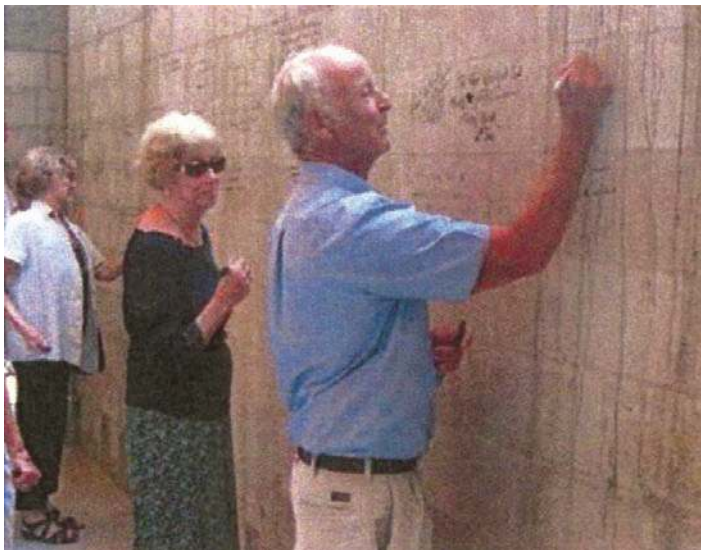


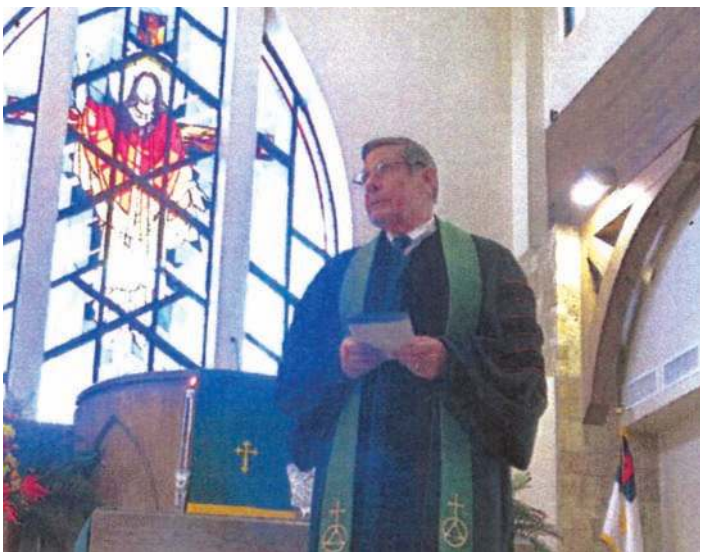
The exterior of the new building.

"The structure is here, it just needs a few details and tweaking," says Burt Borgelt, chairman of the Building Committee. Some of these details are cosmetic, and the others are minor things, such as adjusting the sound system.

Porter describes the style of the church as "contemporary gothic"; it was designed by architect John S. Dickerson.

According to Porter, 278 people can fit in the sanctuary at a time. They expect to add another worship service time in the near future because the congregation keeps growing.





2013 ~ 2014

2013 Highlights

- Retirement of Dr. Porter and formation of Pastoral Search Committee.
- Hosted 34th Annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service with all of the islands worshipping communities represented. Attendance exceeded 430.
- Expansion of summer Reading Buddies program with triple the number of volunteers and students.
- Active participation by volunteers for various organizations including Russo Prison Ministry, the Dream Center's Rib Fest, Learn to Fish, and bell ringing for the Salvation Army.
- Membership now stand

2014 Highlights

- Dr. Norman Pritchard appointed our new Pastor. He began his ministry on November 30.
- Collection and disbursement of over $100,000 for various missions, denominational programs, and charities.
- Initiation of Home Communion Ministry.
- Hundreds of volunteers work thousands of hours for our mission service, including Walk A Mile in Their Shoes and Sale Away which raised $17,000.
- Reading Buddies Christmas Party and Christmas Sing attended by over 170 attendees.
- Women's Club Fashion Show drew over 140 participants and raised $1,500.
- Christmas Cantata was held on December 14.































The Rev. Bruce Porter smiles at his wife, Ginny, at his retirement party at Christ Church of Longboat Key, Presbyterian. The congregation gathered to celebrate his service and spiritual guidance.

Dr. Norman Pritchard



Norman and his wife, Joan, a retired educator moved to our area following his retirement late in 2014. They have two children, their daughter Gillian, living in Ontario with her husband and two children, and their son Andrew who lives in California.

Norman's statement of faith:

I believe in God's purpose for the church. Fragmented, fallible, sometimes unfaithful, the church is nonetheless the instrument that God is pleased to use to bring his lost and erring children home. The church exists in the world as a fellowship of believers, witnessing to Christ by word and deed as his body in the world, expressing a diversity of gifts and a unity of purpose that the Spirit generates.

2015 ~ 2016

2015 Highlights

- We celebrated the one year anniversary of our new pastor, Norman Pritchard.
- We held our first Ash Wednesday Service.
- We held our first Women's Retreat.
- We held our first Kirkin O' The Tartan.
- We held our first Good Friday Service.
- We launched our Justimagine2 campaign to enable us to move forward in ministry and missions.
- We purchased the property adjacent to our church at 6350 Gulf of Mexico Dr. to provide additional parking.
- We grew the participation and donations of our Missions, with hundreds of volunteer hours. Our missions include: Food Pantry at Our Daily Bread, Turning Points Annual Census of the Homeless, Walk A Mile, Bell Ringing, Adopt-A-Family at Beth-El, food and toy collections for Our Daily Bread and Turning Points.

2016 Highlights

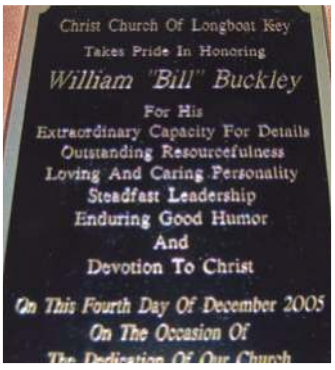
- After the devastation of the hurricane in Haiti, we sent special mission funds to help with emergency relief with Agape Flights and PC (USA) Disaster Relief.
- Bill Buckley, our Facility Manager, retired. He made an impressive difference in the life of our church, including being a founding member as well as involvement with the building of our sanctuary.
- The Mission Committee resolved to support Bible Missions USA (Dr. Paul Eckel) and PC USA Missionary in Haiti. (Cindy Correll)
- Session recommended and congregation approved the establishment of a Board of Deacons to continue our ministries. The first six deacons were elected with Eleanor Kueton serving as moderator.
- Rich Raymond started as our new Facility Manager.













Wednesday Night Dinner Highlights CCLBK Missions





Turning Points





Dinearounds













Concert Series







Women's Club Fashion Show











Women's Bible Study Luncheon

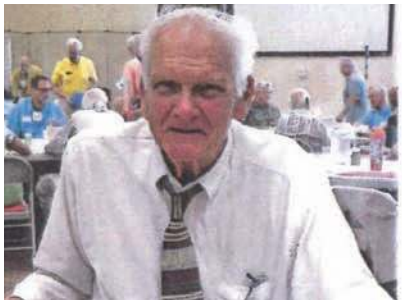


Activity Fair





Pasta & Praise on a Wednesday Night







2017 ~ 2018

2017 Highlights

justimagine2
GROWING AGAIN IN JESUS' NAME CHRIST CHURCH OF LBK

- A wonderful dinner celebrated the successful Justimagine2 campaign.
- Christ Church was thankfully spared damage as Hurricane Irma moved through Florida.
- The annual Kirkin again attracted an overflow crowd.
- Church members held special food drives, served lunches and helped in the pantry for Our Daily Bread, held toy drives, rang the bell and participated in Walk A Mile and Census Count.





2018 Highlights

Hope Seeds

- Hope Seeds volunteers packaged 7,080 seed packets.
- Mission activities included Christmas Adopt A Family for Beth-El, bell ringing, pantry and in-house volunteers at Turning Points.
- The Women's Club sponsored a Wellness Day with attendance by 130 women.
- Small group Bible Study, programs which started in 2015, continued to multiply and are very popular with our congregation.
- Summer sunset supper and worship service proved to be popular.

Thank You to the 43 volunteers who packed over 7,080 packets of seeds!





Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Inc.





Ladies Social





Thanking Our Ushers





Women's Club







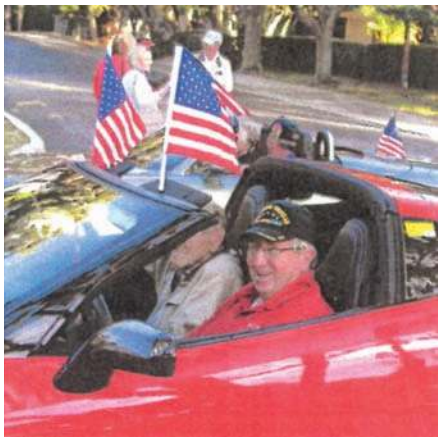
First Timer's Dinearound





Longboat Key Salutes Our Veterans on Parade







A Fellowship Congregation





















Women's Club Tours Marie Selby Botanical Gardens





Norman & Joan Pritchard Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage





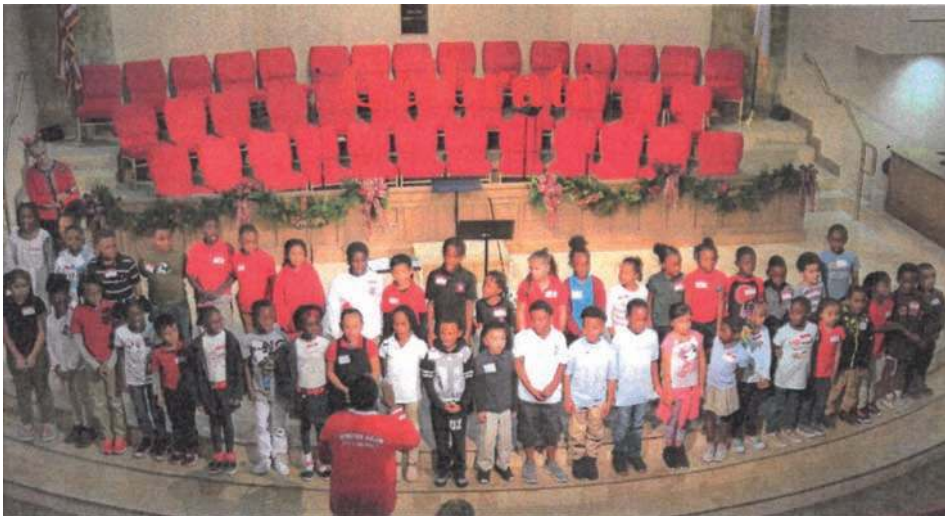
Thank You Library Volunteers!





Reading Buddies















2019 ~ 2020

2019 Highlights

- Worship services broadcast on YouTube.
- Wednesday Night Dinners continue to be well attended.
- Outstanding music programs with Sunday Cantata worship services and afternoon concert series were held during the season.
- Hope Seeds volunteers packed over 30,000 seed packets since 2016.
- Active mission programs included serving lunch to 100 Beth-El workers, involvement with the Harvest House homeless facility, ECHO Seed Bank, Easter activities with Learn to Fish Families, Christmas gifts for Beth-El families, being bell ringers for the Salvation Army, and volunteering at Our Daily Bread and Turning Points.
- Rotary Club island-wide Veteran's Service held at Christ Church.
- Reading Buddies celebrated its 12th year of partnering with the 13th Avenue Dream Center. Over 12 years, our 100 plus Buddies have served more than 500 children, and our Christmas party is the highlight of the year.
- The Men's Club monthly meetings and the Women's Club offered a variety of speakers.
- Outside activities including Day at The Circus, Orioles Spring Training, visit to the Bishop Planetarium, drew appreciative crowds.
- Men's and Women's weekly Bible study groups were held, along with Sunday School after Sunday services.
- Norman and Joan's 50th wedding anniversary party was a highlight.

2020 Highlights

- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, weekly worship continued, although for safety reasons in-person services were suspended for several months, and our Pastor and staff musicians offered worship by live stream each week without interruption.
- Improved streaming services and equipment aided by a Presbytery grant and a generous donation from a church friend.
- Special mention to our dedicated volunteers who managed these services every week.
- Celebrated the 15th anniversary of initial worship service.
- Initiated on-line giving.
- Almost $50,000 raised to support Christmas gifts for Reading Buddies families, Beth-El, and volunteered at Our Daily Bread pantry and Turning Points.
- Hope Seeds volunteers invested 1,351 hours and packed 85,330 seeds - an amazing increase.
- Initiated successful blood drive, three food collection projects, and served hot lunch to farm workers from Beth-El.
- Bible Study and other small groups continued meetings.

It Was A Year Of Caring

- Caring Ministry connected with most congregants.
- 350 greeting cards were sent.
- Volunteers worked weekly at Our Daily Bread.
- Women's Club Fashion Show benefitted Learn to Fish.
- Prayer Chain received 325 prayer requests.

Adjusting To Life With COVID-19



The Rev. Norman Pritchard preaches to a nearly empty Christ Church on March 15.







6th Annual Kirkin O' The Tartans Service







2021

2021 Highlights

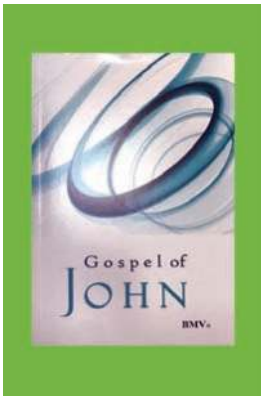
- CCLBK continued to offer weekly Sunday services, in person and online during the continuing COVID pandemic.
- The streaming of our regular Sunday services grew in popularity with several hundred members of the congregation and tourists watching these weekly.
- Generous donations by church members ensured that our missions could serve the increasingly pressing needs of their constituents.
- An increasing number of seasonal tourists go online for their search for churches on LBK, resulting in our website being enhanced to feature our many programs and activities.
- Careful financial stewardship guided us through this challenging year, resulting in a healthy and resilient operating budget.
- As part of our community service, we continue to host blood drives twice a year.





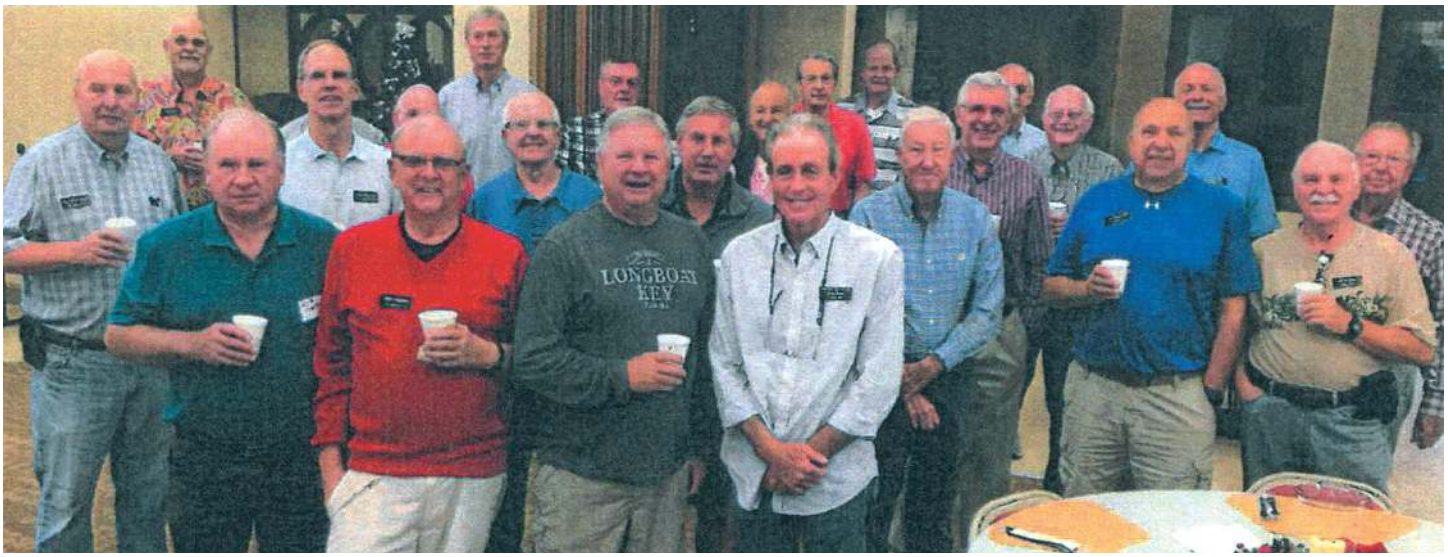








Men's Club Breakfast



Our Deacons



Card Ministry



Salvation Army Bell Ringers







Church Food Drive - Helping Others



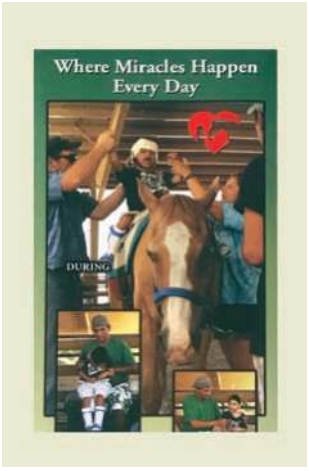


Church's Prayer Shawl Ministry Knits a Community Together





In-Stride





National Day of Prayer



Reading Buddies





CCLBK Choir







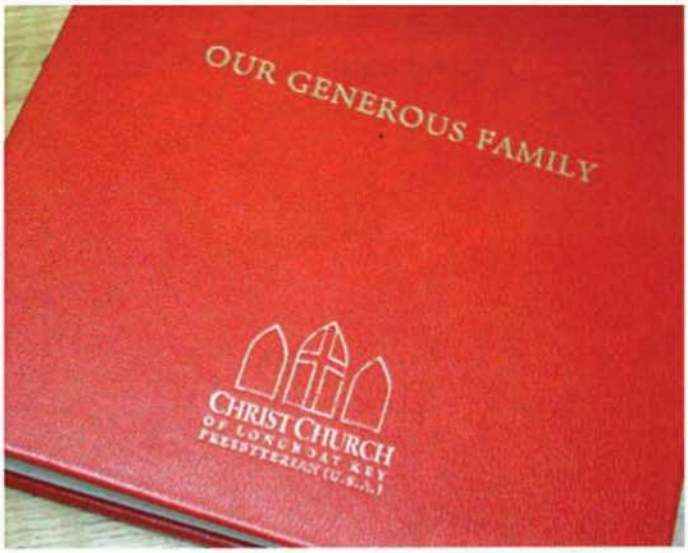






Our Wonderful Congregation



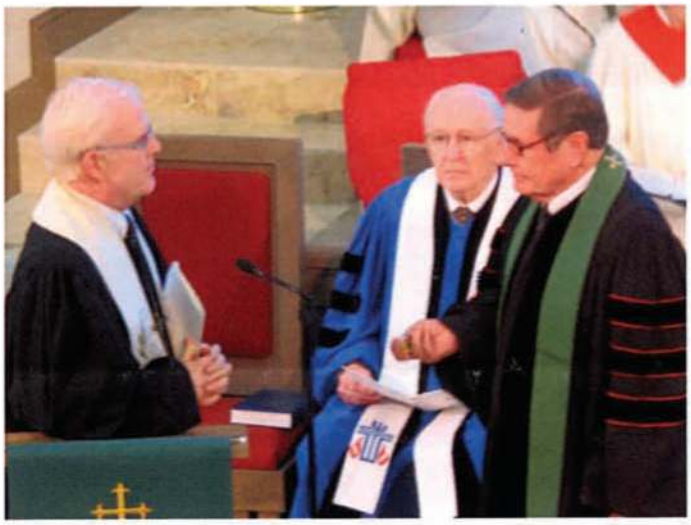










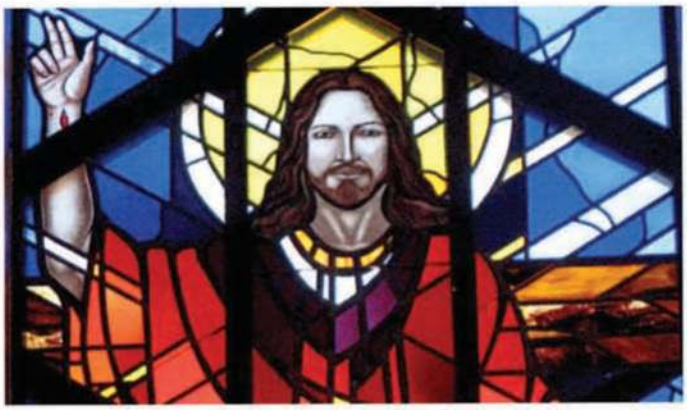






















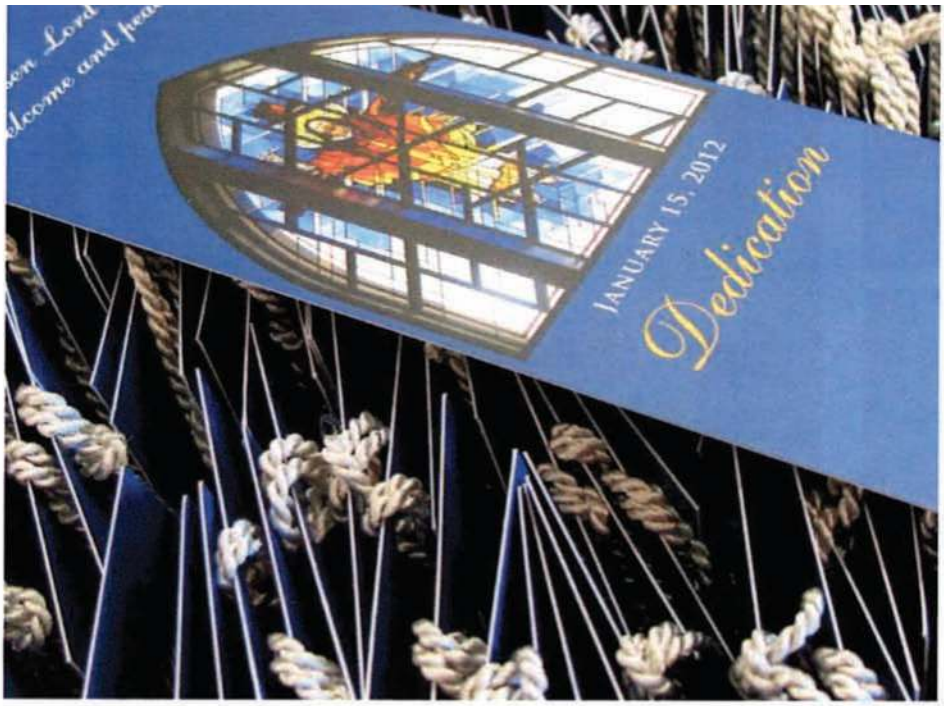
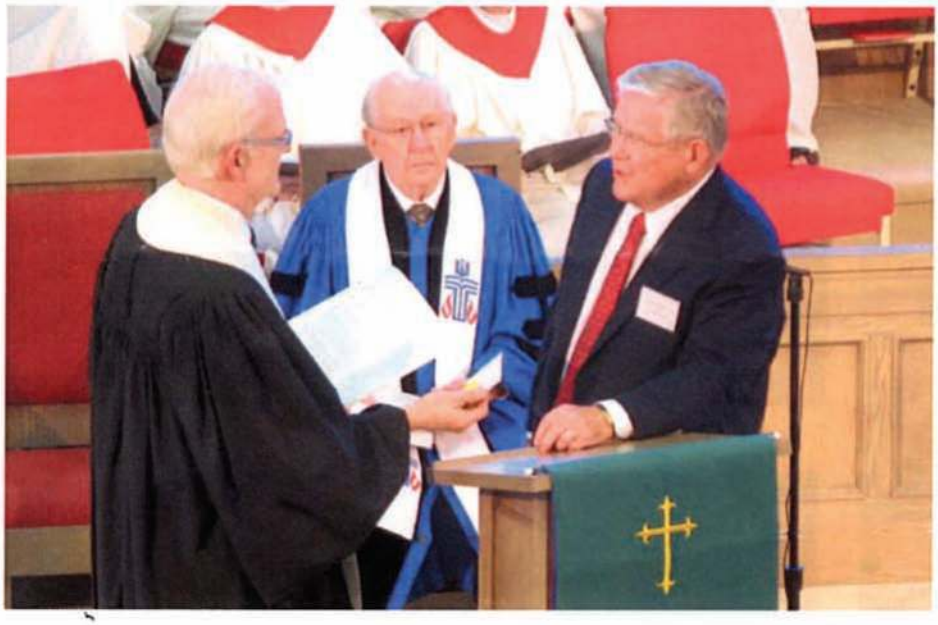










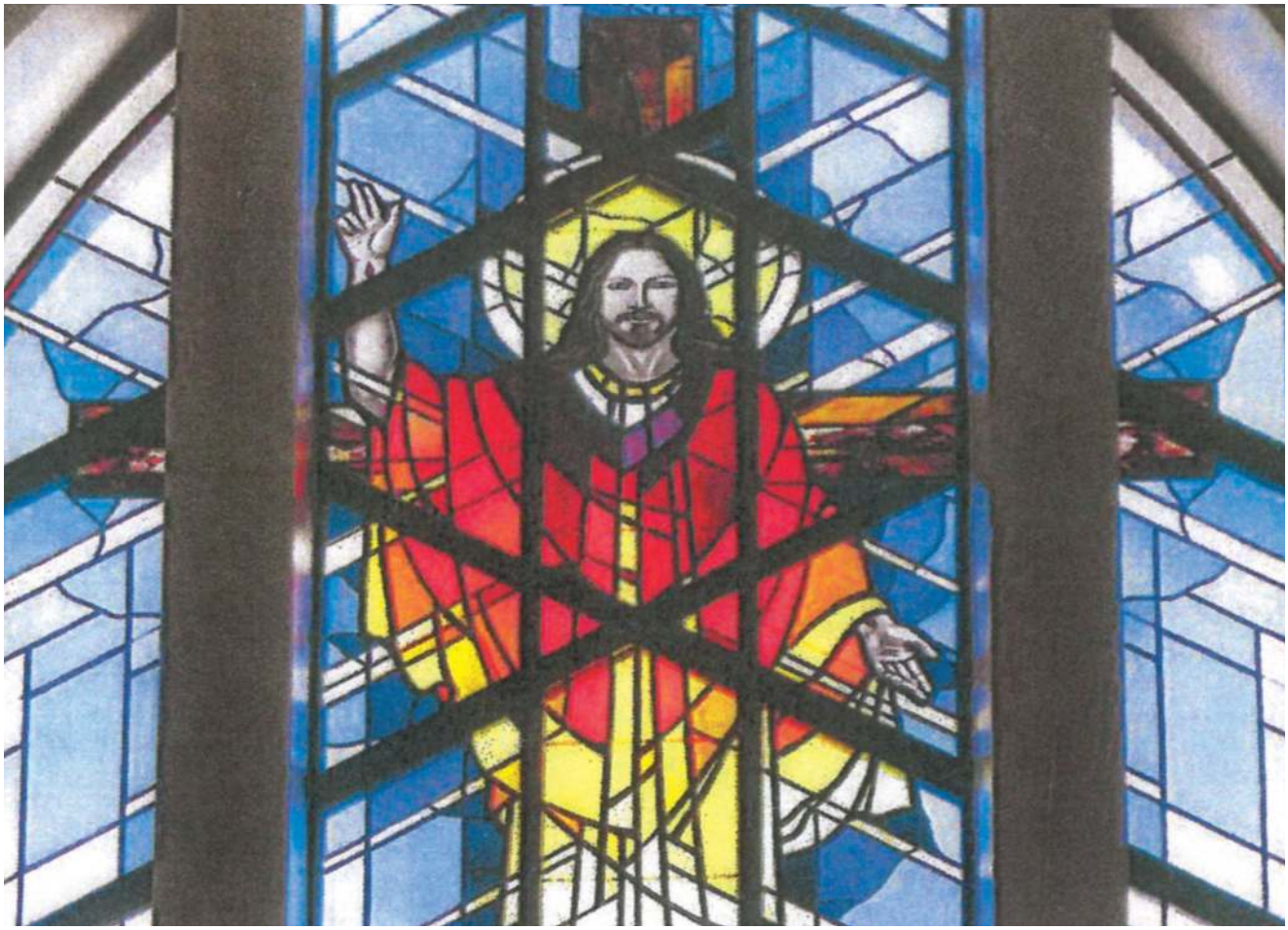


JANUARY 15, 2012
Dedication










Our Extraordinary Stained Glass Window

Guests and members alike have often remarked about the stunning depiction of Christ that presides over our Sanctuary. The combination of the glasswork and the vibrant colors creates an image that is both powerful and approachable.

Sue Borgelt, Gaye Bowles, and Bruce Porter spent months researching and planning for this focal point in our Church. They selected Richard Buswell as the artist after seeing his work at St. George's Church in Ocala. "Rich" was involved in every step of the process and is the principle behind Lynchburg Stained Glass of Lynchburg, Virginia, a studio that specializes in religious stained glass church windows.

Following many design revisions, final drawings were approved of the Holy Spirit in the round window and the risen Christ in the main window. Christ is shown with three fingers raised in a blessing, while his other hand reaches out in a welcoming gesture.

Our window is composed of 33 separate panels, containing multiple pieces of translucent, machine-rolled cathedral window glass. Each piece of glass was hand-cut and individually glazed into the window with a lead alloy. The pieces were hand-soldered on both sides, waterproofed on both sides and reinforced with steel brace bars. In addition, Christ's face, neck, arms and hands were hand-painted, adding depth and detail to these features. After being fired at 1200 degrees, the paint became permanently fused to the glass.

Our loving representation of Christ, the result of extensive planning and great artistry, will remind us of His sacrifice, inspire us, and comfort us for generations to come. – *Karen Fors (church member)*



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