



## “A Trademark”

In a column on “Preaching” in *Rev.* magazine, Leonard Sweet, a well-known writer, conference speaker, and educator, writes that “Every pastor needs to create some kind of brand identity or trademark. It matters less what that brand is than that you have one. And the only way to develop that brand is through ritual repetition.”

The main reason for such a “trademark” is that “Repetitive phrases and signature sayings help people establish a strong and trusting relationship with the one preaching and provide internal conversations with the sermon.”

This makes me think back on my almost-46 years in ministry, whether there’s anything I’ve said often enough that would resemble a trademark, that would help my congregations understand what I’ve been trying to convey to them all this time?

One “trademark” saying comes to mind immediately: *“We are blessed so that we can be a blessing to others.”* This is taken from what God said to Abram, “I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing” (Genesis 12:2). Very often we ask God to bless us but, come to think of it, why should God? I truly believe the only reason that God will bless us is so that we can in turn be a blessing to others! Otherwise, we’d just be like the Dead Sea — nothing can grow in it, because it has no outlets, it only gets to keep!

One of my favorite hymns, *“Make Me a Blessing”* by Ira B. Wilson (1909), says it well:

Out in the highways and byways of life / Many are weary and sad /  
 Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife / Making the sorrowing glad  
 Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love / Tell of His power to forgive /  
 Others will trust Him if only you prove / True every moment you live  
 Give as ’twas given to you in your need / Love as the Master loved you /  
 Be to the helpless a helper indeed / Unto your mission be true

(Chorus) Make me a blessing / Make me a blessing / Out of my life May Jesus shine /  
 Make me a blessing / O Savior, I pray / Make me a blessing to someone today

Another “trademark” saying that I have often used is similar in meaning to the first: *“Somehow bringing someone one step closer to God.”* I know I have often used this phrase quite intentionally in my sermons and in my prayers. I am convinced that our calling as believers in, and followers of, Jesus is to do just that — somehow bringing someone a step closer to God!

There are at least two reasons why I use this phrase often: one, I believe it is our responsibility to live in a way so attractive that it would sow the seed to draw others naturally to God, because they too want to be like that (lifestyle evangelism); and two, it is not necessarily our responsibility to reap the harvest of that seed, as we are just called to be faithful. Therefore, our responsibility is just to somehow bring someone one step closer to God.

Very often we get discouraged and give up because we don’t see any immediate result after sharing our faith with someone or a family member, which leads us to think that we have failed. Instead, what we should know is this: While the responsibility to share with others is ours, events and results are God’s — all we are told to do is to be faithful to that calling to share.

I hope these two “trademark” sayings would mean something special to you every time they are said, as a reminder to what we’re supposed to do and be as disciples of Christ. As we approach the summer months this year, let us think of various ways to make a difference in someone’s life — asking God to bless us so that we can be a blessing to others, and to somehow bringing someone one step closer to God.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Bill*



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## K-5th Grade Sunday School

The last Christian Education class for K - 5th grades will be **Sunday, June 1st**. Class will resume after a summer break on September 7th.

We are looking for a new leaders for this class. If you are interested in this position please contact the office or Teri Beeler.

**Many, many thanks to Nelson and Kathy McCray for their leadership and dedicated service!**

## Rockledge Presbyterian Church

921 Rockledge Drive | (321) 636-0811



# VBS!

*Cokesbury Kids*

# ROAD TRIP

ON THE GO WITH GOD

## June 23-27

### 9:30-11:30am



**Ages  
4-12**

Register in Church Office or at  
[www.myvbs.org/RPC25](http://www.myvbs.org/RPC25)



# Food Donations

Located in the Narthex we have a grocery cart, where non-perishable food items can be donated. The donations are then given to food pantries in the community. We need your help to keep the food donations a success! Please consider picking up food items to donate. The food items should be non-perishable, unopened and within the expiration date.

# DISCIPLE

UNDER THE TREE OF LIFE

*DISCIPLE: Under the Tree of Life* is the final study in the four-phase Disciple program. The study concentrates on the Writings (Old Testament books not in the Torah or the Prophets), the Gospel of John, and Revelation. Join us each **Monday at 1:00pm** in Knox Hall, Bible Study is led by Pastor Bill. *All are welcome!*

# May Birthdays

Douglas Olds	5/1
Carolyn Hattaway	5/15
Doug Kasimier	5/21
Mark Gordon	5/24
Wayne Ivan	5/24
Gerry Harris	5/31



## Banana Split Sunday

Join us after Worship on **Sunday, May 26** for banana splits and Fellowship in honor of Memorial Day!



### Worship with Us!

**IN-PERSON AND "LIVE" BROADCAST  
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:00am**  
[www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org)





# First Tuesday Dinner

Our next First Tuesday Dinner will be held May 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Our dinner, catered by Brano's Italian Grill, will feature Chicken Parmigiano, Penna Florentine, veggies, garden salad, bread and dessert. Cost is \$12 per person.

Following dinner, our program will be shared by our own **Pam Weiger** and volunteer and Chaplain **Tom Buddington** of the Cape Canaveral Spiritual Care Team. Join us as they share their work and service to our community. Invite your friends, family and neighbors.

Sign up for dinner reservations can be done after worship in the Fellowship Hall, call **Betty Peterson** at 406-750-9202, or the church office.

*All reservations must be made by Sunday, May 4 at noon.*



Dr. Vernon Boushell Concert Series Presents

# America the Beautiful

Join us June 29 at 3:30 p.m. for our exciting tribute to America concert, featuring Space Coast Symphony Winds Orchestra, for the last concert in the 2024-2025 Boushell Concert Series where we honor America. This red, white, and blue concert will honor all those who have worn this nation's uniform.

Tickets are NOT yet available, but will be at the end of May.

An email will go out when tickets are available, be looking for that.

*We hope you join us as we celebrate America!*





Did you know that Riverside supports a Sunday school on the island of Borneo in Indonesia? Since 2014?

Graduates from Teen Missions Bible schools in Indonesia are the Circuit Riders who visit six locations during the week to teach Sunday School. Just like the circuit riders of old, they have a regular route only they ride motorbikes instead of horses. It's more than just Sunday School as they teach English/phonics and lead other activities. In a Muslim country like Indonesia, people would not attend church, but may attend Sunday School. God's word is spread through these meetings in a country where it is difficult to share the Gospel message.

**From a recent report from Riverside Sunday**

**School:** Thank God the Sunday School service is running well. Children diligently follow Sunday School and for every Sunday School, there is one child who increases.

Children enjoy learning and understand it easily. I am also grateful that the parents of the children are willing to take their children to tutoring.

Riverside's Sunday School is supported with funds from the Bookbinder Endowment Fund.

With a mission to prevent delinquency and develop lawful, resilient and productive citizens, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches was formed in 1957. The goal was to provide a home for struggling children who need support to help them grow into lawful, resilient and productive citizens.

The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches now has three residential care campuses in Florida:

- Boys Ranch (Live Oak)
- Scholarship House (Bartow)
- Youth Ranch (Safety Harbor)

The summer camping program began in 1981, originally as a two-week program for youth who were too troublesome for residential care. They now have three overnight campuses and a mobile camping program that have the usual camping activities of canoeing, archery, ropes and swimming, as well as many esteem-building recreational activities that allow boys and girls the opportunity to participate in groups, build team work and positive peer communication skills.

Riverside Missions Commission has opted to support this worthy organization with funds from the Bookbinder Endowment Fund.



On June 8, the Pentecost Special Offering will be collected and is used to support young people in Christ.

- ◆ 25% supports youth and children at risk ministries,
- ◆ 25% goes to young adult volunteers who are trained to work in mission in the U.S. and around the world
- ◆ 10% is used for child advocacy (working to better the lives of children by ensuring equitable, quality public education)

The remaining 40% remains with us and will be sent to a local ministry — Called Out. This ministry educates others about human trafficking. Many victims of this horrendous crime were taken as young teenagers and need our help to make a new and healthier life.

# On Stewardship, by Jeni Grangaard

## “The Stewardship of Now”

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” — Mary Oliver, “The Summer Day”

In Jerusalem, my best days start with a walk in the Wallaja Valley. It’s a place that holds light and darkness with equal beauty as sun and shadowy mist streak through the trees after sunrise. Its fecund ground holds vibrant rock and blooming wildflowers, hedged by rosemary, sage, and wild thyme.

On my walks this spring, I noticed how the light green tufts, thirsty for chlorophyll, poked through their buds, folded against each other, styled like spiky hair. As the weeks stretched along, small fig leaf shapes slowly emerged. Tiny fruit appeared on the branch, cute in miniature form. Slowly, slowly over time the leaves have grown and taken their deeper color. Soon the fruit will add some purple to its green coat and be ripe for eating. And soon after that the fruit that is left will fall and rot, the fruit marking the ground, the trees once again bare and stark.

The time I have spent out of the United States has trained me to slow down and consider the lilies — or wild poppies. The stewardship that comes to mind is the practice of slowing down: the stewardship of time.

Economics is a study in decision making. With the limited resources and in particular settings, what tools will one use to make the right choice? What is the most valuable commodity?

We so often think that it is money. Money can buy just about anything. Health care, a good education, nice clothes, a safe home and car.

Money can do a lot, but it is time that is more valuable. With time one can make more money. With time one can do it all — or as women are often pressured, with more time, one can have it all.

But time is limited, a precious commodity, an un-renewable resource. We can’t buy it. We can hardly save it. We can only spend it, as Annie Dillard suggests.

Nina Simone once quipped to her live audience, “Time is a dictator,” before sliding into “Who Knows Where the Time Goes?” We too will run out of time.

Returning to Mary Oliver: “Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon? Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

This question has inspired us. It has also put a pressure on many in their quarter-life crisis who shout: “I don’t know! There is so much time!” It has also offered a freedom to many in their midlife crisis who whisper: “Something else, I am running out of time.”

But the poem isn’t pushing us into the future. It is rooting us where we are. The poet does not ask us to hitch our wagon to the one blazing star that will plot the course for the rest of our lives.

The poet calls us to attention as if it was prayer. This is prayer, she offers — not oratory, but openness, paying attention, being alive. What makes our lives wild and precious is the living of them.

The wild and precious life isn’t some possibility, waiting to be attained or perfectly curated. It is in the messy and fleeting present. It is here. It is now.

The wild and precious is the sideways moving jaws of the grasshopper as it chews the sugar cube.

Or the sticky sweet warmth of a four-year-old who asks to hold hands at bedtime.

It is the unfurling fig tree leaves. The wild flowers. The morning light that reflects my own being.

— Reprinted from Center for Stewardship Leaders (May 22, 2018)

Luther Seminary

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Jeni Grangaard is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

sent by Global Mission to serve as a

Country Co-Coordinator for the Young Adults in Global Mission Program in Jerusalem and the West Bank





### 2025 Financial (as of March 31st)

Income	\$120,178
Operating Expenses	\$87,768
Net Income	\$32,410

# Faithful Stewardship

Thank you for your continued financial support!

God's work never stops...and therefore, neither does ours, blessings!

*Douglas Kasimier* , Treasurer, (dkasimier@aol.com)

## Session Update

The Stated Session met in-person, April 15th. Pastor Bill Teng moderated.

The following items were deliberated and approved:

- The church pew brochure has been revised and updated with copies now available in pew racks in the sanctuary
- The Fall Charity Concert on October 5 will present the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra with Aaron Collins conducting, featuring music from the silver screen and stage, with proceeds going to the Children's Hunger Project of Brevard
- Communion elements will again be served separately beginning in June
- Rev. Jane Wesson is invited to serve as Parish Associate beginning in September with a monthly stipend of \$250

If you are interested in becoming a member of any of the Ministry Teams, please contact the church office, or any of the session members.

Next Session meeting: **Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m.**

## Diaconate Update

The Deacons met in-person, April 8. Tammy Ivan has rejoined us for 2 more years and Paula Yost is our new Session Liaison. Susan White is the caring person for May.

The officers for 2025: Fern Wolle, moderator; Janice Eastes, vice moderator and secretary; and Jorge Castillo, treasurer.

Pastor Bill joined us for this meeting to provide general guidance and share some upcoming changes that will enhance the Diaconate's service and effectiveness. The Nominating Committee will meet soon to address the need for new members.

Palm branches will be distributed by the ushers on Palm Sunday. Easter flowers will be delivered on April 18.

Pastor Bill will be adding a congregational prayer list to the worship bulletin. He will also be offering 2 training sessions for elders and deacons: April 24 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and May 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m.**  
(to accommodate the session's schedule change).

## Church Staff

**Rev. Dr. Bill Teng**  
*Interim Pastor*

**Betsie Germann**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Diana Amtower**  
*Traditional Music Leader*

**Keaton Belliveau**  
*Psalm 66 Praise Band Leader*

**Doug Kasimier**  
*Treasurer*

**Chuck Torgler**  
*Custodian*

**Karen Ward**  
*Web/IT/AV*

## Church Officers

### SESSION

Carl Plaugher '25	Ann Stone '26
Tom White '25	Meghan Johnson '27
Mark Gordon '25	Paula Yost '27
Anda Ray '26	Robert Howard '27
Teri Beeler '26	

### DEACONS

Susan White '25	Tammy Ivan '26
Fern Wolle '25	Jorge Castillo '27
Carolyn Hattaway '26	
Janice Eastes '26	



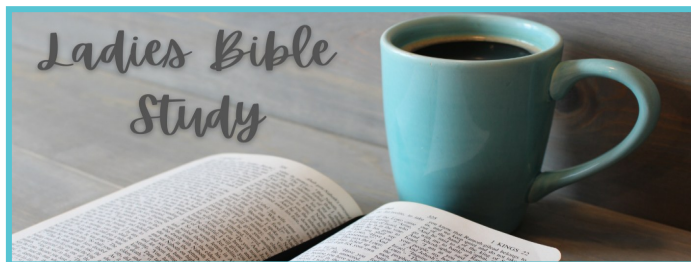


This year the Presbyterian Women are looking at God's call to care for our neighbors and for creation with a study entitled "Let Justice Roll Down." If you are interested in joining one of the circles, please contact **Gail Marshall**, **Betty Peterson** or **Paula Yost**.

Both circles meet in Knox Parlor.

Hannah/Ruth/Rebecca meets  
the 3rd Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.

Deborah meets the 3rd Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.



The Wednesday Afternoon Ladies' Bible Study continues to enjoy "Old Testament Stories from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, looking at familiar stories from a different perspective. We meet Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. in Knox Parlor (also available via Zoom).

## Sunday School

### 9:00 a.m.

#### K-5th grade/Fusion Youth

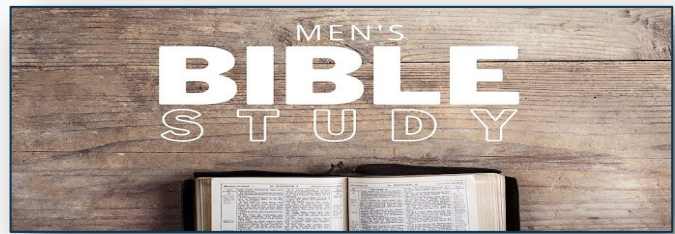
Last meeting before Summer will be June 1st.

Class will resume September 7th.

#### Adults

*A study of the doctrine of The Trinity*  
Knox Parlor

*Essentials of Faith: Why Do We Need the Bible?*  
(Ladies class)  
Knox Galilee



Men's Bible Study meets **Wednesday's at 8:30 a.m.** in-person in Knox Parlor and via Zoom. Afterwards we go to breakfast for more fellowship time.

If you prefer to join us via Zoom please contact **Tom White** at 614-849-8741 or via email at [didymus623@gmail.com](mailto:didymus623@gmail.com) for a Zoom link.

## PRAYER Circle

We come together each Wednesday morning at 10am to pray for the needs of our church family and friends. There are blue cards in the pews that you can fill out, or you can email me at [biddle310@gmail.com](mailto:biddle310@gmail.com)

*Jane Lovett*

#### *Pray with Us For...*

- Loved ones
- Those who have illness or loss
- Our military personnel
- Our missionaries
- Our nation
- Our church

#### OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Lift your prayers this week to the Throne of Grace for: **Rob Lancaster**, **Sandra Swann** (Jerry's sister), **Joann Middleton** (Girard's mother), **Glen Stout**, **Wanda Cook**, **Meghan Johnson**, Vickie Olcott's friend **Margot**, **Priscilla Hernandez**, **John House**, **Rebecca Burns**, Jorge Castillo's friend **Victor**, **Allyson McElheny** (Priscilla's friend), Vicki Olcott's cousin **Debbie**, **Jane Lovett**, **Diane Whitehurst**, **Joan** (mother of Nancy Ragland), **Tim Bright**; **Rev. Jane Wesson and family** as her husband, Tony, died on April 9 after a long struggle with Parkinson's, **Paula Yost** and family (her brother Bob passed), the **Nancy, Felicia, and Allie** family (husband and father passed); housing situation for **Pastor Bill & Karen Teng**; peace for Ukraine and the Middle East.



# May

# 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9am Youth & Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time 11am Communications 11am Worship & Sacrament	5 1pm Disciple Study 7pm NA Meeting	6 6pm First Tuesday Dinner	7 8:30am Men's Study 9:30 am Stitchin' Sisters 10am Prayer Circle 10am Care & Support 2pm Women's Study	8 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Christian Education	9	10
11 9am Youth & Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time	12 1pm Disciple Study 7pm NA Meeting	13 7pm Session Meeting	14 8:30am Men's Study 10am Prayer Circle 2pm Women's Study	15 7pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17
18 7am Sunrise Service 9am Youth & Adult SS 11am Fellowship Time	19 1pm Disciple Study 7pm NA Meeting	20 1pm HRR Circle 7pm Deacons Meeting	21 8:30am Men's Study 9:30am Stitchin' Sisters 10 am Prayer Circle 2pm Women's Study	22 7pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 9am Youth & Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time	26 1pm Disciple Study 6:30pm Community Engagement 7pm NA Meeting	27 7pm Mission Meeting	28 8:30am Men's Study 10am Prayer Circle 2pm Women's Study	29 7pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31