



The Covenanter

SEPTEMBER 2021



Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

September can be an in-between month for us here in Florida. Summer is still holding on, and the hopes of an early October Fall are a dream yet to be realized in my life time. As many of you know, it's usually the first or second weekend in November when we see a real dip on the thermometer. However, as I was recently reminded, one doesn't have to shovel sunshine. Therefore, although we remain warm, I believe we get the better end of the deal.

We look to Fall not only for cooler temperatures, but towards life's activities - fun with family and friends, times to celebrate the harvest and give thanks for God's abundant goodness in our lives. Fall allows for the opportunity to assess or reassess where we are. To ask, how we're doing? Where are we going? What is God's calling upon our lives? Of course, one can direct these questions towards any area of life, be it financial, relational, professional and so on. However, I believe, we are served best by seeking a response to these queries in regards to the care and nurture of our spirits and souls.

The areas of finance and professional life are easily quantifiable, measurable and reportable. However, when assessing our relationships, things become somewhat muddled. It becomes more difficult to quantify or measure these associations. I know of many, even in my own family that would point to their number of followers on social media, but these are not the relationships I'm addressing. I'm speaking about those relationships most significant to us. I'm writing about those we are the meanest to, and yet we profess to love them the most. In our relationships, we may have a general sense of how things are going, but to quantify such a bond on a balance sheet - it doesn't work.

In regards to caring for the most important part of ourselves, spirit and soul, it gets even worse. We are seemingly very comfortable with a level of fuzziness that we would never allow into our fiscal or even our relational life. The sad part is, even when we try to navigate how to care for ourselves in this way, we are inundated with a buffet of choices. Does one seek guidance in the various religions of the world or pursue answers in the occult? How about the religions of self-help, self-awareness, and the promise they offer of self-actualization? Is this where one focuses effort? Does any of this even matter? Isn't it enough to virtue signal to others, moralize my behavior and just be a good person?

People in the first century were doing these same things - seeking gods, practicing the occult, walking around proud, wise, above the fray. Their dress and behavior were attempts to demonstrate to everyone their superiority, while pointing to the inferiority of others. Jesus addresses them in numerous places, but Matthew chapter 23 is where we find the "Seven Woes."

If one reads it, one might wonder, where is the compassionate Jesus who just falls in love with everything and everyone all the time? I've spent thirty years reading, praying, studying the Bible and I haven't discovered this Jesus. I know God loves me, even accepts me. Nonetheless, I also have seen drastic changes in my life as a result of God's love and acceptance, and yet - if I'm honest - more change is needed, I haven't arrived yet. In fact, Jesus reminds us, none of us have. Yet, we get the better end of the deal.

We might be in the in-between of Summer and Fall. We might even be in-between relationships or challenges that attempt to rob us of joy while seeking the abundant life of Christ. However, let us not add to the challenges of living in the in-between with sanctimonious attitudes. These behaviors only add to the fuzziness of our already blurred relationships and separate us one from another. Instead, let us pursue the transformative life God offers and be filled with Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control or at least try.

Abundant and Great Blessings,

Pastor Darren

RIP MEDICAL DEBT

Most of us, at one time or another, have had sticker shock when looking at hospital and doctor's bills. I remember, when we had just moved to Florida, having to take my daughter to the orthopedic doctor for a small fracture in the vertebrae of her neck. Rick was driving a cab and I was working part time. The bill was more than we could handle. To make a long story short, we paid what we could, and the doctor agreed that would be enough. However, the unpaid balance eventually made it to a collection

agency who made daily calls threatening us if we didn't pay immediately, even though the doctor had agreed not to charge the balance. This incident remained on our credit rating for about seven years.

We were fortunate that it was the only challenge we had. We soon had full time jobs and were not dependent on our credit rating for loans. Unfortunately, this is not the case for so many in Orange and Seminole County, or the rest of the country for that matter. So many must choose between paying outstanding medical bills and their basic needs like food, heating, and housing. And this year that number has only grown as so many are out of work and have lost what medical insurance they had.

Winter Park Presbyterian Church has begun our fundraising campaign. RIP Medical Debt has opened a crowdfunding page which will track our donations. To donate please go to:

<https://ripmedicaldebt.org/campaign/orange-and-seminole-county-florida/>

We have an anonymous donor who will match the first \$5,000 donated by the congregation.

A little over a year ago, I saw a news story about a church that raised \$18,000 and paid off the medical debt in their community in the amount of \$1,800,000. I was so amazed at what this small church could do that I began to research the charity they worked with – *RIP Medical Debt* (<https://ripmedicaldebt.org>).

RIP Medical Debt was founded by two debt collection executives who used their knowledge and compassion to find a special unique way to relieve medical debt. They could create a charity that would use donations to buy large bundles of medical debt. They could relieve individual's debt with no consequences to the recipients. They have also established individual crowdfunding pages that groups can donate to, allowing the group involved to donate 100% to debt relief – nothing goes to administrative fees, salaries or operating overhead. And for the donors – they are a 501C(3) nonprofit organization – donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

I know that we frequently hear of the challenges in other countries such as Cuba and Haiti, schools in need in African nations. These are certainly areas that could use financial aid. But what has always been a challenge for me is that we so rarely look to those in need close to home. I learned recently that 52% of students at Glenridge are eligible for free lunch. This puts their families at or below the poverty level. We can't forget or ignore those in our county, state, or country.

I would hope that there are many of us who feel as I do. You don't have to be super wealthy to help lots of your neighbors. *RIP Medical Debt* makes a little money go a long way.

~Syd Davis



The Worship & Music Committee is happy to announce our up and coming concert series for the 2021-2022 season. The first concert will be "Music On The Lawn" on Sunday, September 19, from 3-5pm and will be presenting the musical duo "Rexine Unplugged" featuring the lovely voice of Rexine with instrumental accompaniment by our own Gregory Seel. They will be performing a variety of old and new classics, soulful pop and blues with pieces such as *Georgia On My Mind*, *Say A Little Prayer For Me*, and *I Can't Help Falling In Love With You*.

The Openers, a musical group comprised of several individually "famous" people from our congregation, will play the first fifteen minutes of the concert.

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, September 19, from 3-5pm. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, or camp stools to the east lawn in front of the pre-school wing of the church. There will be ample parking in the pine tree lot.

Admission is free but donations will be accepted at the close of the concert.



WPPC has been blessed to receive several new members this year. The Community Life Committee is engaging in a “catch up” effort to introduce these new members to the congregation. This month we are featuring Porter & Deanna Spangler, Stan & Barbara Halterman, and Norlin & Myrna Ham. If you haven’t already, please get to know these folks and make sure they feel like part of our family right away! Keep an eye on future editions to meet more of our new members!



Porter & Deanna Spangler
Joined: January 10, 2021

Porter and Deanna Spangler moved to Winter Park in 1989 from Atlanta. They have been married for 49 years and during that time have raised 3 sons and a daughter. They have 5 grandchildren. Deanna worked at the Methodist School in Winter Park as a preschool teacher and has recently retired after 29 years. Porter's career has spanned many years as a commercial real estate finance and development executive for major financial institutions.

We are both enjoying retirement and are happy to now be a part of the Winter Park Presbyterian Church.



Stan & Barbara Halterman
Joined: March 8, 2021

Stan was born in Norborne Missouri (near Kansas City) and Barbara was born in Grand Rapids Michigan. They met in 1958 and it was love at first sight. Stan had a 40 year career with United Airlines and so they had many wonderful traveling opportunities through the years. They have 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. They have lived in Grand Rapids, Denver Co., and Kansas City before moving to Orlando in 1985. They currently live at Westminster Winter Park.



Norlin & Myrna Ham
Joined: May 16, 2021

Norlin and Myrna were born in Nebraska. They were married 60 years ago at First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Bluffs, NE. They have three children and six grandchildren. In 1967 they moved to Winter Park when Norlin accepted a position with Lockheed Martin. They worshiped for many years at WPPC until moving to Altamonte Springs. Three years ago they were blessed to move to Westminster Winter Park and are now very happy to be back at WPPC.



R IN A SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:15—10:15 AM • ROOM 301

September 12th—"BESSings Upon You"

Dr. Darren Bess was called to this church as senior pastor on March 15, 2020, the same day WPPC first cancelled its "in-person" services because of COVID. He preached his first "on-line" sermon on Mothers Day, May 10, and was welcomed by the congregation with a "parking lot" walk through that afternoon. Since then, to say that "it has been a challenge," for Dr. Bess and the WPPC congregation to get to know one another, would be an understatement. The Relationships in Action Sunday School class will host Dr. Bess on Sunday, September 12, in room 301 at 9:15 to hear him tell of his life's interesting journey that has brought him to us here at WPPC.

September 19th—Holy Land Experiences: Part I

Reta Jackson will share her experiences from the trip to the Holy Land that was led by the Rev. Larry Cuthill and attended by members of WPPC in February, 2020. Part I will present pictures and information focused on the religious/archeological sites in Israel. All are welcome.

September 26—Holy Land Experiences: Part II

Reta Jackson will continue her presentation of her trip to the Holy Land that was led by Rev. Larry Cuthill in February, 2020. Part II will focus on historical/religious experiences that can be found in Jordan. All are welcome.



Hannah Circle resumes monthly meetings beginning Monday, September 13. We will meet via *Zoom* due to precautions concerning the corona virus. We meet on the second Monday of the month from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. I will send the *Zoom* link early on that day so it won't get lost in your emails. If you are not on our Hannah mailing list and are interested in joining us, please call or email me and I'll add you to the list for the *Zoom* links.

Pat Morgan will continue to lead our studies. She was the Director of Christian Education at WPPC prior to her retirement a couple of years ago and we are blessed to have her as our study leader. This year we will be using the Horizon Bible Study put out by the PC(USA). It is entitled "What My Grandmothers Taught Me! Learning from Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus". Pat has sent for literature and study guides and they will be available for a small price if you are interested.

Looking forward to seeing familiar faces on *Zoom* on the 13th of September, and also welcoming new faces. Please contact me if you have any questions.

In Christ's name,

Eileen Silvers, Hannah Circle Moderator
 407-376-2133/eileens@cfl.rr.com



DEACON'S DEN
DENNIS SCHMALSTIG, WPPC DEACON

"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."

- Isaiah 26:3

I recently discovered a Ted Talk about silencing inner dialogue. The speaker argued that the constant stream of ego-affirming chatter causes most of our mental suffering. If nothing else, the endless broadcasting of worries, fantasies, and memories drains resources. The internal radio takes up bandwidth better used for accomplishing tasks at hand.

How does someone turn off the noise? The speaker suggested that we ask ourselves two questions whenever we notice a buildup of chatter. Question 1: Are these thoughts useful? Question 2: How are my thoughts behaving? Thoughts begin to dissipate when brought under scrutiny.

Another speaker added a wrinkle to this advice. An inner debate about the worthiness or behavior of a thought leads to more mental volatility. It's more productive to simply ask these questions. The subconscious mind begins to eliminate the influence of a pointless thought once the thought has been tagged. Deeply embedded thoughts, however, require repeated tagging.

The question-asking path has been described as self-inquiry. Other paths exist such as the Buddhist practice of mindfulness. A seeker directs and redirects his or her attention to whatever is here and now. When a thought bubbles up, it is simply noted as another phenomenon amongst phenomena. Persistent effort trains the mind to focus less on ego-building exercises and more on present reality.

Another way to quiet the mind is the path of devotion. Isaiah appears to endorse this path in the verse above. By directing our minds to God, we surrender to infinite peace. The inner world expands beyond petty concerns to enter communion with a Universal Presence. When the mind quiets to the point where the peace of God becomes nearly constant, trust in God's steadfast love gains strength. Faith builds as we become centered in the Divine.

Most saints and mystics follow the path of devotion. It's easier to find peace when directing effort toward a source of love. The pull of a relationship with God gives the devotee enough momentum to reach his or her goal.



Welcome to WPPC
Susan Howard
We're glad you're here!



Handbell Ringers needed for
the WPPC Ringers, an inter-generational
handbell choir that meets right after
worship each Sunday.

It helps, but isn't necessary, for you
to know how to read music.

For more information and to sign up,
contact Dana Irwin @ 407-678-0406.



LIBRARY NEWS DORIS ANGUISH, LIBRARIAN



In the main part of the church there are eight lower windows representing events in the life of our Lord beginning with Annunciation of His Birth (Luke 1:26-35). Mary is shown kneeling on a prayer bench. The angel Gabriel startles her with the message that she is to be the mother of the Messiah presenting her a lily, symbol of purity and chastity. Medieval painters often placed a lily in Mary's hands.

Most angels in Christian art appear as winged beings. In their outward appearance presented in the Bible in human form and could at times be mistaken for men.

The angel tells Mary she shall bear a child. Mary asks how she can bear a child when she has no husband? The angel answers, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and that holy child to be born of you will be called holy, the Son of God." The symbol of the Holy Spirit is the dove. On a few occasions a flame, or seven flames (portraying the day of Pentecost Acts 2) have represented the Holy Spirit. The dove shown here has rays of light proceeding from it. The emblem in the lower panel represents the incarnation in a beautiful and impressive symbol: the caged dove—our Savior in the womb of a woman. Blessed art thou among women.



NEWS FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS

This Child Here is partnering with Mennonites in the USA to conduct a Violence Prevention Project with volunteers who are working with members of the Ukraine community to find ways to work and live together without violence in the difficult times facing Ukrainians. Robert and 21 volunteers were on their way to a four day workshop. He describes the volunteers as able to step into a room of people and lead them through team work, role plays, communication, and reflection that give them a sample of community grounded in dignity and respect. These are people he trusts to give their best, to care, and to believe in what they are doing—traits that are especially important in a place like Ukraine.



Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation (Ukraine): Good news!! The project to purchase land and build two houses for foster children and young women transitioning from the orphanage has met!! Any additional donations are welcome and can be used for furnishing and support of the children and families living in the homes. What a blessing this will bring to the lives of these children and young people! Audrey Ball Santiago sends her love and thanks to all who support these projects in Odessa. She is planning her next trip to Odessa on September 21st.



Sonia and Steve Dettweiler send their greetings as they worship in the ECWA Plateau Church in Jos Nigeria. “We enjoy the vibrant worship as we join brothers and sisters each Sunday morning at this church of over 1,000. We love the way Nigerian Christians use their whole bodies, clapping, and dancing when singing praises to God. Although most of the service is in English, we often sing choruses in a variety of Nigerian languages.” The church also has small groups that meet in the homes of members.





NEWS FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Cuban Partners: Leaders of the Cuban Presbyterian Church reported on the current situation in Cuba. While the turmoil has quieted down, Cubans continue to face their biggest crisis yet in terms of COVID. Church leaders state that they want to preserve life, peace, and work toward meeting the needs of the people. They are not sure what reforms will be prompted by the protests. Some challenges include the current inability to use US dollars in Cuba and the need for remittances in others currency forms. People are still receiving ration books for food but now receive them mid month. The government has been working hard on the vaccination, but the results are not as good as hoped. Many children under 18 have contracted the virus. Churches are closed due to the virus. Congregations meet only through WhatsApp. This leaves the church still unable to care for the elderly people. Pastoral care is particularly important now. People are experiencing shortages of food and medicine. People continue to support their churches as best they can. With pediatric hospitals overwhelmed with the number of infected children, the Seminary has been asked to serve as a center for children suspected of COVID and their families. Donated funds are currently being used to send a large container of needed supplies to Cuba. Pastor Reile of our sister church, Santa Clara, has asked for prayers as he battles COVID.



Alliance for International Reforestation's (AIR) Scholarship Program After Fifteen Years: We are Planting More than Trees in Guatemala! In Guatemala, after the sixth grade, the costs of books, school uniforms, bus fare and a small tuition prohibits the large majority of children from graduating from high school. So, fifteen years ago, AIR started a program to help the brightest rural high school students graduate—as a “thank-you” to their families who had been planting trees with AIR (some of them had planted hundreds of thousands). Please view the beautiful video on AIR’s homepage where two of these graduates tell their stories – www.airguatemala.org.



Left: Elvira C. graduating in 2012 and Below: She is completing her Master's degree in Maya History and Kaqchikel, and here is teaching for her internship. We are all very proud of Elvira.

Dimas Ajtzac began school as a shy boy, but a scholarship from Art and Jeanette in Florida allowed him to graduate and then earn a degree in Theology. Here he is with his proud parents at a graduation party. He is now a Senior Pastor for a church in San Martin

You know that AIR's primary Mission is training farmers and planting gardens and millions of trees in Guatemala. But we also have programs in the rural schools to reinforce this work—including school gardens, tree nurseries, environmental classes, and high school scholarships.



Bible Quiz

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

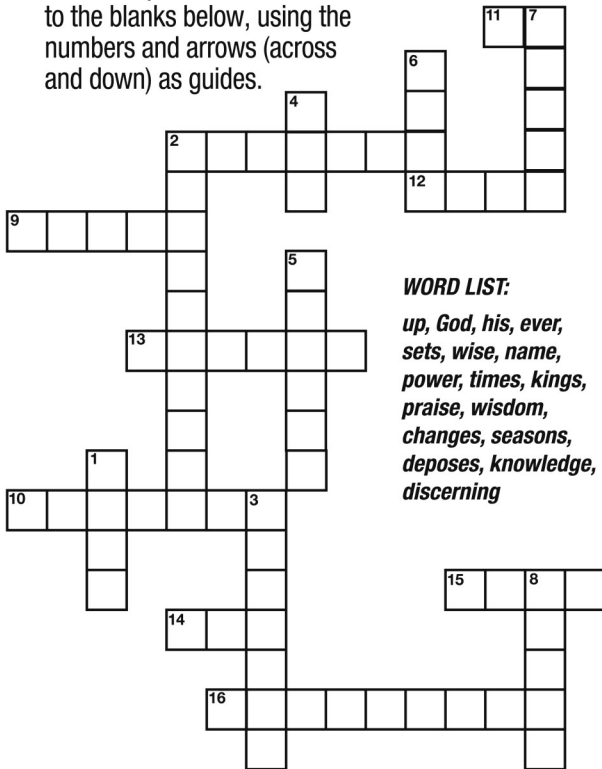
- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times



Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2.)

Puzzle!

Fit these words from the book of Daniel into the squares. Then transfer them to the blanks below, using the numbers and arrows (across and down) as guides.



WORD LIST:

up, God, his, ever, sets, wise, name, power, times, kings, praise, wisdom, changes, seasons, deposes, knowledge, discerning

"_____ be to the _____ of _____ for _____ and _____ ;
 _____ and _____ are _____. He _____
 and _____ ; he _____ and _____
 them. He gives _____ to the _____ and _____ to
 the _____." DANIEL 2:20-21



Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

party - t = p r a y (v. 1)

lady + i = _____ (v. 3)

drab + e = _____ (v. 5)

rod + o = _____ (v. 7)

bask - b = _____ (v. 9)

keeps - p = _____ (v. 9)

define - ee = _____ (v. 9)

shift - t = _____ (v. 11)

sneaky - y = _____ (v. 11)

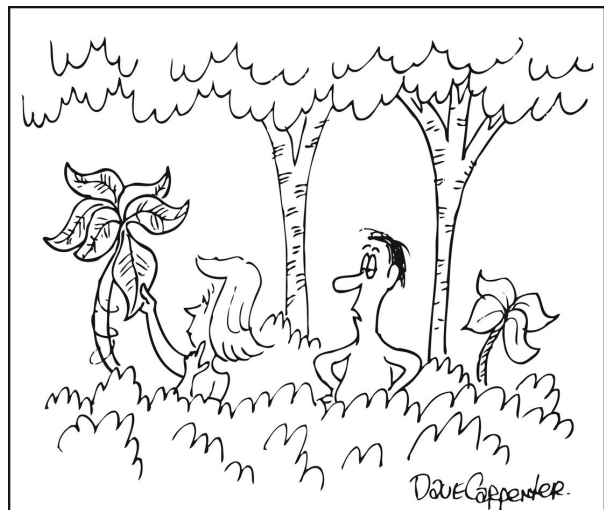
sift + g = _____ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

_____ (v. 13)


Answer: pray, daily, bread, door, ask, seek, fish, snake, gifts, Holy Spirit



"I hate clothes shopping!"

Answer: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning." Daniel 2:20-21

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Rachel Myers Victoria Snyder	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>5</u> Larry Morse	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> Allie Yadav	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> Barbara Lane	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> Ray Schieber Elaine Young	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Rick Dillard	<u>16</u> Myrna Ham	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> John Evans, Jr.	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Dona Stepp	<u>22</u> Joan Branch Wendy Jamison Teresa Kountz	<u>23</u> Barbara Halterman Keith Naylor Eddie Register	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> Hal Eastburn Asher Green Debby Roberts
<u>26</u> Norman Hittinger	<u>27</u> Warren Deatricks	<u>28</u> Bill Branch	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> Mike Galyean Dana Irwin Delores Mamone Nancy Ocque Andy Riccio Jim Spivey		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Abigail Lee Lucie Shannon Ty Shannon
<u>3</u> Myrna Erwin	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> Frank Jamison III
<u>10</u> Karen Plater	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> Clementine Yadav	<u>14</u> Rusty Baldwin	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> Shirley Portz	<u>18</u> Carolyn Boyle	<u>19</u> Camden Dreasher	<u>20</u> Ann McIntosh	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> Monty Gettys	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> Carolyn Arnold	<u>27</u> Jonathan Fagan Alan Woods	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>29</u> <hr/> <u>30</u>

Meet Our Teachers

Two year old
"Butterflies"
class teachers
Jessica Valentin
and Alison
Bodeep



VPK "Dolphins"
class teachers
Bethanne Seel
and Marty Hall



Young toddlers
"Puppies" class
teachers Sabrina
Roude and Gail
Cannaday



Three year old
"Ladybugs" class
teachers Aubrey
Bloodwell and
Anne Cleary



VPK "Koalas"
class teacher
Susan Richcreek
and Morgan
Dixon



Older toddlers
"Bumblebees"
class teachers
Katie Daniels and
Hayley Sherrill



Three year old
"Dinosaurs" class
teachers Melissa
Booth and
Desiree Felix



VPK "Llamas"
class teachers
Jessica Pardo and
Marjie
Hutchinson



Two year old
"Owls" class
teachers Katie
Garlinger and
Rochelle
Washington



VPK "Alligators"
class teachers
Christy Kearney
and Miriam
Gabra



Art teacher
Alea
Schroeder





The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Emily Wasser, Associate Pastor
 Carolyn Achenbach, Director of Operations/Accountant
 Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant
 Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant
 Justin Chase, Director of Music
 Penny Walsh, Organist
 Susan Davis, Director of Handbells & Children's Music
 Tricia Wilson, Director of Preschool Programs
 Kenny Lovelace, Sexton

SESSION

2021

Phillip Anderson
 Lisa Dreasher
 Jayne Leach
 Shaheed Mohammed
 Nelson Roe

2022

Theresa Coker
 Bonnie Gaughan
 Fran Morrissey
 Michelle Trahan
 Jay Van Hook

2023

Syd Davis
 Fred Kittinger
 Malcolm MacDiarmid
 Jim McKinney
 Dawn Sumrall

DIACONATE

2021

Mike Galyean
 Reta Jackson
 Julie Kent
 Curtis Koon
 Sara Van Arsdel
 Jeanne Vinci

2022

Susan Davis
 Jane Munns
 Rachel Myers
 Christine Rich
 Dennis Schmalstig
 Meg Ball Thomas

2023

Ron Ellman
 Betty Johnston
 Sevilla Morse
 Cynthia Nants
 Jyme Smith

MISSIONARIES

Rev. Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell - Brazil
 Mark Hare & Jenny Bent - Costa Rica
 Dr. Dan & Elizabeth Turk - Madagascar

For Covenanter or Sunday bulletin submissions, please fill out a publicity request online at <http://winppc.org/publicity-request/> or contact Cindy Mitchum at cindym@winppc.org or 407-647-1467.