



Your
Weekly News
from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

February 28, 2020

First Sunday in Lent / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

8:15 AM Communion Worship, Chapel

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship, Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM Classic Worship with Chancel Choir, Sanctuary

The sermon for this Sunday:

"Solitude, Community, and Discernment" - Rev. Ruth Elswood

[Psalm 32](#); [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

[Click here](#) for Sunday's bulletin & announcements

Help Us ...

Revitalize Our Church
& Discern What God Is Calling Us To Do Next

Your Voice Is
Requested -- Wanted -- Needed
Please Take A Very Important Survey

For detailed information about our consultant, the role she will play in the future of our church, information about the survey, as well as a link to the survey, here is a link to our website:

<https://www.fpcstpete.com/2020-congregational-survey>



Welcome New Member
Terry Benetto

God blessed me with a family that found the importance of being nurtured in tradition and diversity, so I grew up in a Presbyterian/Catholic home in eastern Ohio. Religious, spiritual and service development was part of the fabric that God started weaving in me at a very young age.

After I was blessed with my only family, God led us to a United Methodist church where family development was important. At this church in

Cleveland, TN, I participated in numerous roles in church administration, choir, small group leadership, Sunday school teacher, youth group leadership, local and foreign missions leader and District Lay Leader. From this involvement in the local church I felt the call to pastoral ministry and received certification as a Licensed Local Pastor and served as a part-time pastor in the area.

After selling my businesses in 2013 that revolved around my career as an architectural designer, we moved to St Pete to retire. However, God called again to serve as interim pastor at Christ UMC in St Pete.

The varied ministries, service dedication and congregational care of FPCSP brought me here and I look forward to being in community and service with all members of First Presbyterian Church of St Pete!

Financial Snapshot		
January 2020		
	Month	YTD
Gifts	\$ 58,190	\$ 468,001
Other Income	9,188	64,672
Total Income	67,378	532,673
Expenses	87,554	568,102
Income (Loss)	\$ (20,176)	\$ (35,429)
Pledges and non-pledge gifts are \$38,000 under budget YTD.		
Unplanned purchases of a \$1,400 media projector and \$2,000 sound mixing board for worship were made this month.		
January is seventh month of new fiscal year.		

Duo Catanza Guitar Duets

Sunday, March 1, 4 PM
Sanctuary



Enjoy the soothing sounds of classical guitar reverberating through the beautiful Sanctuary on a Sunday afternoon. Award-winning guitarists Scott Plato and Matthias Young will play a recital of eclectic and scintillating literature.

Scott received his Bachelor's degree in classical guitar performance from Georgia State University under the instruction of John Sutherland, a protege of Andres Segovia. He also has a Master of Music degree from Adams State University in Alamosa, Colorado. In 1995 he founded the guitar department at Gainesville College in Gainesville, Georgia and was the Head of Guitar Studies there until 2000.

Matthias Young has taught at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center and Emory University. He is the Director of the Dunwoody Conservatory of Music. In 2017 he established the guitar program at Mount Vernon Presbyterian School in Atlanta, GA. Matthias is also an accomplished tenor soloist, having performed professionally for over a decade in assisting the choirs of St. Peters and St. Mary's Church in Rome, GA, and The First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. He is currently the tenor section leader and assistant conductor at Mount

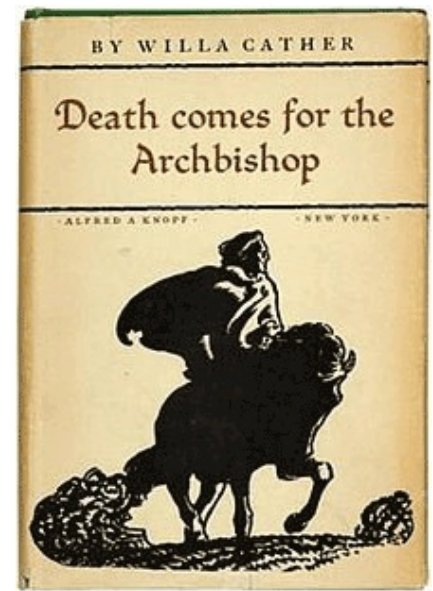
Faith & Fiction

Death Comes for the Archbishop By Willa Cather

Monday, March 2, 7:30 PM, N-123

Discussion Leader: Lorraine Franckle

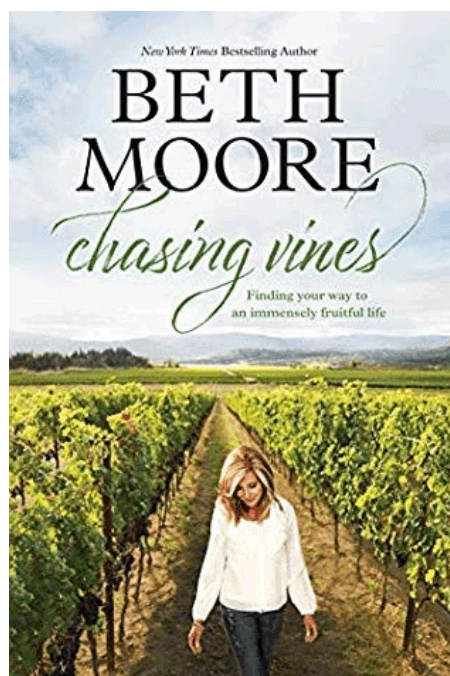
Death Comes for the Archbishop is the story of the life of Archbishop Jean Marie Latour, a French missionary. He is given the task of overseeing the diocese of New Mexico, which has just been annexed by the United States from Mexico.



Next month's Faith & Fiction: April 6, 7:30 PM

Becoming Mrs. Lewis, by Patti Callahan; Discussion Leader: Rue Ann Porter

Joy Davidman and C.S. Lewis were an unlikely match, separated by an ocean, an age difference, ghosts of the past, and the general complications of life, and yet love has the power to conquer all.



Ladies, you are invited to a new Beth Moore Bible Study: "Chasing Vines"

Finding your way to an immensely fruitful life

Let's explore the ways God delights in watching things grow - and how the vineyard holds the secret to a more abundant and meaningful life. We'll uncover how every part of our lives - even the rockiest soil - can be used by God to make a difference for His Kingdom.

March 3 - April 7, 2020, 6 Sessions

Tuesday mornings: 9:15 – 11:30 AM in the Youth Center

Tuesday evenings: 6:30 – 8:45 PM in the Youth Center

Study guides will be available for \$15. No previous Bible study experience is needed. Bring a friend! Free childcare is available by reservation – email childcare@fpc-stpete.org or call/leave a message with childcare at 828-3971 (sign up for all 6 weeks or let childcare know if you are unable to come for specific dates).

Questions? April Hussung: 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com

Susan Schoenberg: 560-2892 or susansch@tampabay.rr.com

Wednesday Night LIVE!

March 4

5 PM -- Children's Choir (Choir Room), for children ages 4-10

5:30 PM-- Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Menu: chili, bread, salad, dessert + kid-friendly option. Please call the Church Office (727)

822-2031 to let us know you will join us for dinner.

6 PM -- Messy Church, "Weird and Gross Stories of the Bible" (Room S-106) or Financial Peace University (Chapel) or "Astronomy and the Bible" (Fellowship Hall)



Lakewood Elementary Update

Lakewood staff and students were saddened by the inaccurate Tampa Times article published on February 10, 2020. Unfortunately, the editor did not visit the school and presented three-year-old information as if it were recent. We appreciate the opportunity to share the accurate information because Lakewood Elementary School is definitely on the rise!

Just a few of our recent celebrations:

- A 90% decrease in discipline referrals for student misconduct over the past two years.
- Our student absentee rate has declined from 19% to 6%.
- We have maintained a stable instructional staff with 100% of staff remaining throughout the school year.
- Our 5th graders are outscoring all 13 schools in the Transformation Zone in Science.
- Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade scholars making learning gains has increased from 42% to 77%.

We have had multiple visits from Florida Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran and a visit from Frank Brogan, Assistant Secretary of Education with the United States Department of Education, as well as a city councilmen and staff from the Department of Education. All visitors expressed how pleased they were with the state of our school and spent hours touring the campus, talking to scholars and observing classrooms.

From Mrs. Stephanie Woodford, Principal, Lakewood Elementary School

Security Committee Meeting Minutes

[Here](#) are the minutes from the last meeting of the Security Committee.



Below is the list of open positions at FPC:

- Associate Minister (full-time)
- Receptionist/Office Admin. (part-time)
- Office Admin. (full-time)
- Childcare Workers (part-time)

If you know of someone seeking employment, please direct them to our website: www.fpcstpete.com/fpc-hiring-2020.

EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

We are now collecting plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy for our annual

Eggstravaganza. Collection baskets are located by the entrance to the Sanctuary and entrance to the Fellowship Hall



Have you friended us on Facebook or Instagram?

If you haven't, please do so! Also, be sure to SHARE our Facebook and Instagram posts as much as you can! That can help us increase numbers of followers of the church Facebook and Instagram pages. Thank you for helping us be more visible!

FPC Calendar At A Glance

[Click here](#) to view the full church calendar online.

Coming up:

- [March Childcare Parent Calendar](#)
- [March Birthdays](#)
- First Monday of each month, 7:30 - 8:30 PM, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123. [Here](#) is the Reading List.
- Faith Development Bible Study, S-100, 9:30 AM, Tuesdays
- Men's Community Bible Study, Fridays at 7:30 AM, N-123
- Yoga With Adam, 3 PM, Fellowship Hall (Sunday afternoons, refer to church calendar for any variation).
- GriefShare Support Group, Chapel (meets Sunday afternoons at 4 PM and Tuesdays at 10 AM; refer to church calendar for any variation)
- Sunday, March 1, Duo Catanza Concert, 4 PM, Sanctuary
- Monday, March 2, Faith & Fiction, *Death Comes For The Archbishop*, N-123, 7:30 PM
- Tuesday, March 3, New Beth Moore Bible Study begins, 9:15 AM or 6:30 PM, Youth Center
- Tuesday, March 3, Meditation for Christians, 7 PM, Chapel
- March 5, deadline for all questionnaires to be filled out and paper questionnaires returned to church office
- March 6, World Day of Prayer
- March 6 - 8, Rev. Cameron Trimble, consultant, is on campus
- March 8, Daylight Saving Time begins
- Sunday, March 8, Rev. Trimble takes Q & A after 9 AM and 11 AM services

Deadline For "First News"

Items for "First News" should be submitted as early as possible with a cut-off for any Friday's "First News" being end of day the Tuesday before publication. Please submit copy which is as concise as possible. Send copy to [Mary Johnson](#) and [Amy Grossenbacher](#).

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[Contact Us](#) | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

A Stephen Ministry Congregation of the PC (USA) - Christ empowering people to care for people.

