

Subject: FCW Meeting Notes: October 9, 2023 (with attachment)

Hello Everyone,

Pardon the delay with sending these meetings notes to you. I'm happy to say, my computer connectivity situation has **finally** been corrected with a new router provided by Spectrum...

Below you will find plenty of information to read through in these meeting notes, plus one attachment to refer to for Christmas Box contents ideas. Thank you for taking the time to go through each topic to keep up to date. If you have general questions, you may certainly reach out to me. You will find contact names included following each topic should you have specific topic question.

***Opening Devotion:** Thank you, Shirley, for sharing the history of Bette Nesmith Graham. A devout single mother and inventor. Her focus was on her faith, taking care of her son and ultimately providing employment for herself and many others in the community.

Below is an excerpt of Shirley's reading (the document Shirley read from was passed around at the gathering on 10/09)

"When one single mother, Bette Nesmith Graham, had to find work to take care of her family in the 1950's, she took on typing jobs. The only issue was that she wasn't a very good typist and kept making mistakes. Tired of having to retype entire pages because of one small error, Graham determined to find a more efficient alternative. Little did she know her frustration would lead to her becoming one of the most famous women inventors of the 20th century.

The impetus for Graham's breakthrough came as she observed painters decorating the bank windows for the holidays. Rather than remove their mistakes entirely, the painters simply covered any imperfections with an additional layer. The quick-thinking Graham mimicked their technique by using a white, water-based tempera paint to cover her typing errors.

[Bette] created what is known as Liquid Paper, a white correction fluid used to cover up typing errors. Once it dries, you can type over the cover-up as if there were no errors. **Jesus does this for us [forgives our mistakes]!**"

Refer to John 8:11 - "Neither do I condemn you." Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." John's message is consistent with the message we heard in our on-line Bible Lesson Monday. Liz reminds us: "Who [we] are becoming is by the Power of The Holy Spirit." Bette Nesmith Graham had no great sins. Bette's strong and consistent faith in God enabled her to provide for her son and *many* people in community.

For more information: On-line you will find more historical information by typing: Bette Nesmith Graham in the search bar.

***School Teachers clothing** Thank you to all who were able to share some of your winter clothing and brought to our meeting on 10/09. It was a late request for help and a big **Thank You** from Rose Adams and all the teachers. You have all received emails with photos reflecting a 'warm clothing party' 😊 held on Wednesday, 10/11. Rose and her husband Lewie, delivered the donations to the ladies. The photos to me were special! and also gave everyone an opportunity to see the sizes of the women. Maybe we have more clothing to share now that we have an idea of sizing...

For more information: Please contact Rose Adams: RoseEAdams51@gmail.com

***The Visitation Ministry** topic Teeter brought to our attention, to help make us aware of this enhanced/focused initiative currently in development. The focus group members are: Terry Medlin (lead), Mark Bitner, Teeter Mauldin and Sharon Weaver who met on Tuesday, 10/10, to discuss next steps for this enhanced outreach endeavor.

Initial emphasis:

- Members needing visitation immediately/consistently (those in hospital, care facility/housebound because of health issues).
- 'Absent' members - contact those who have not been in church for a long length of time since COVID. i.e. determine are they watching on-line; have they 'moved' to another church of worship; no longer living in the metro area?
- Creation/maintenance of roster of members, who are willing to participate in visitation.

Note: a sign-up sheet was passed around during adult Sunday School on 10/08. If you have placed your name on this list, you will be contacted in the coming weeks by one of the members noted above.

For more information: Please contact Sharon Weaver or Teeter Maulin for additional specifics. Thank you for considering help with this ministry! It is important for all First Church members to feel connected.

*** Reminder - FCW Fundraiser: Saturday, 11/04, 10:00-2:00PM; building #6**

All ladies are invited to attend our annual fundraiser sponsored by Spring Mingey and Trades of Hope. This year we are honoring the memory of Barbara Waterston who was an avid supporter and shopper. Barbara loved shopping for her friends and family with the purpose of empowering the artisans from various countries around the world (including the USA).

This fundraiser will be a 'come and go shopping opportunity'. There will be a number of items available for take home and/or personal delivery. Gift wrapping will also be available.

Your purchase helps not only the artisans earn a fair trade wage, but provides additional funds for First Church Women as this is our only fundraiser during the year. Please invite any others that you feel would enjoy this event.

For more information: Please contact Pam Barlow: 904-401-1078

***Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Carol Medlin has great interest for all women (maybe men too) gaining momentum with our prayer shawl ministry at First Church! As you know, many of the women who initiated the ministry several years ago are no longer in the Deland area, or are at home with The Lord.

As Carol discussed on Monday, knitted or (crocheted) shawls are prayed over during their creation. The shawls are given to people during visitation to bring comfort, and as confirmation of love and concern. Please consider joining/rejoining this ministry of women who stitch prayer-filled shawls for both men and women needing comfort, care and love. Carol's vision is the ministry would meet during the morning hours for an hour or two (building #6) maybe once per week.

Note: One does not need to be an expert knitter (or crocheter)! A very basic stitch is all that is necessary to create a beautiful shawl to share with someone in need.

For more information: Please contact Carol Medlin: 386-624-5676 **OR**
medlincarol@gmail.com

***Update Senior Christmas Boxes** – please bring wrapped shoebox to December 11th meeting

Retirement Facility			Misc. notes
College Arms			Numbers as of 10/02 (Elaine Eckler contact)
Hugh Ash			Numbers as of 10/10 (Mary Roberts contact)

*** Nametags** - Do we want to have nametags for FCW? I don't recall who mentioned that topic on Monday. I do see the need for name tags as new ladies join the gathering who do not know everyone. I will see about a name tag (computer generated) and bring to November's meeting to further discuss.

***Refreshments** – Thank you Judy for providing refreshments for our meeting. The fall decorations were beautiful and the cake, cookies and fruit were delicious! Thank you also, for those who stayed and helped tidy up following the meeting.

Next meeting: Monday, November 13, 6:30PM, building #6

Lesson: #8 'Friends in Low Places (Jezebel)'

Devotion: Pam Barlow

Refreshments: Denise Gilman

Thank you again for reading through these meeting notes, Bev