

Subject: Notes from FCW Gathering on 5/13/2024

Hello Everyone,

We welcomed Cindy Malone to our 5/13 gathering! Cindy regularly attends the 9:30 service and has received a copy of these meeting notes at her email (malonecindy795@gmail.com). Last evening we did not share with Cindy, the mission statement of First Church Women which outlines our purpose. With that in mind, I have included a copy of our statement in .pdf format so all of you may have a copy for your files. Also, our mission statement is displayed in a clear acrylic frame on the beverage table when we gather for our monthly meetings. (meeting notes for 5/13 continued later in this email, so please keep reading).

April 8, document/information to share: You may have read in the April meeting notes, a reference to a devotion Hollie Hastings shared regarding “Kindness”. Below is the devotion read by Hollie.

Thank you Hollie, for sharing this beautiful and meaningful devotion with us last month!

5/13 Gathering Notes

Thank you to all who were able to attend. 11 women gathered and we missed those who could not be with us! We understand the press of important evening situations which necessitate skipping a meeting or two during the year. We look forward to seeing everyone very soon...

* **Rhodella Brown shared the Opening devotion** from the Book of Job 8:21 about God's sense of humor. The devotion was written by Lori Adams, (lacedwithgrace.com). A .pdf copy of the reading is attached for your reference.

***Psalm 90 Bible study** (Number our Days) session #2 via Rightnow Media™ and co-facilitated by Rose Adams and Denise Gilman. Thank you for the paper study guide provided. This evenings study focused on the main idea of "No matter what we've experienced, it's possible to be grateful for the past [no matter how difficult]". I encourage those who were not with us this evening, to tune into Rightnow Media™ and listen to the 10 minute session which also includes the study guide handout. You will find attached to this email, a .pdf file of Psalm 90 as well as a document providing additional Bible passage to review.

Tonight's study session concluded with a beautiful hymn (thank you Rose, for finding it for us). We sang the hymn "**We Will Remember**" by *Tommy Walker* which indeed enhanced our study this evening. This hymn can be found on Youtube for those who would like to listen.

***Various topics discussed this evening:**

* **Prayer requests** - special prayers for friends and family of First Church were said.

We also discussed and prayed for Steve Mauldin's health challenge with pneumonia and know God will give him healing rest so he can return to his usual active self.

Dave Dayton's grief for the loss of his wife, Eary, in January of 2024 was discussed and prayers were spoken in support of Dave as he walks his new life path.

Bob Barkley's health (son of Dot Barkley and brother of Barb Garich) has taken a difficult turn. Please keep Bob, Dot and Barb in your prayers. Barb flew out to Pennsylvania this week to be with Bob. (I do not know if Dot accompanied Barb, though I assume she did.)

Please continue to pray for all the prayer requests we asked for this evening. We know God is actively listening and hears all our prayers.

* **Judy Guest** shared that Janet Splawn (a long-time member of our church and the women's group) is in need of some in-home assistance when her daughter, Nancy, is not able to be at her home in DeLand. Judy will speak directly to Nancy to obtain more detail of the assistance needed to help in sourcing assistance. Once Judy has more information to share, she will first contact Rhodella who may know of a resource. More information to follow on this topic at our June meeting or perhaps, prior to that date.

* **Denise Gilman** – shared that her daughter, Jade, will be assuming responsibility for updates to the church website. Denise approached Bev last week with the idea of including information about FCW on the website. I'm sure you'll all agree that is an excellent idea(!) and will help to make more folks aware of us. Bev (and Pam/Lisa) will meet with Jade to further discuss design.

Once we have a 'mock up' it will be shared with FCW at a future meeting before going 'live' on our website.

We will also pursue an online method for future contributions to the FCW account for direct donations, rather than the current envelope method used at this time. More information to follow on this donation topic/method as it becomes available. If we are able to move in this on-line direction, a demonstration of the electronic method for donation will be given. Please stay tuned for more on this migration toward technology assistance for FCW

* **FCW account** A very brief status of the current balance: As of 4/30 our current balance is: \$2,355.03. Pam Barlow will provide a more thorough report on our financial status at our future gathering.

* **Pastors' Ordination celebration** (5/08) was well attended where 196 people were able to attend and show their support and delight in Pastor Mark and Pastor Terry being ordained in the Global Methodist church. They were both ordained in the first **Ordination of Global Methodist Pastors** (conducted in Orlando) several weeks ago.

The final Impact dinner was selected for the date of celebration to ensure the celebration was a surprise with as many people knowing about the event to ensure they signed up on the 'connect card' This celebration timing was quite the surprise!

Thank you to all who were able to help with the planning/preparation, music (Lucy Hudson & Ed Henderson on guitars), food and decorating of the LEC to make it a special event. (Food costs were paid from the usual \$6.00 per person Impact meal cost. Decorations as well as gifts to the pastors and all staff were jointly paid by First Church Women and The Men's Ministry).

An abundance of thanks to all the time and effort by Hollie Hastings for the food planning, purchasing and cooking. All the food was prepared from scratch and Hollie certainly displayed her culinary talents! First church is blessed to have her in our kitchen.

Going forward, Hollie will assume Impact meals food planning/purchasing/Preparing as she has recently accepted this kitchen staff position. And, Hollie will also have responsibility to orchestrate food needs for any future memorial services/funerals conducted at First Church. Hollie looks forward to your usual fine help with preparing donated food and helping to serve. [Thank you for your support of Hollie in her new role at First Church!](#)

Special note regarding left-over food in our First Church kitchen: Based on a question asked (thank you for asking!) others may not be aware (?) of our *historical and on-going church kitchen 'policy'* to always avoid food waste. With that in mind, I (Bev) have included points below to reflect food distribution guidelines following meals, to keep all FCW in the know, plus you'll be in a position to share if others ask you about our practices on food distribution.

11) Second servings are offered at all regular Impact dinners and if food still remains, such as our Thanksgiving meal in 2023; food is packaged in zip-lock bags and laid out on tables for folks to take home.

22) If kitchen help is made aware that a family has food needs at home, food is package up and discretely given to the head of family prior to their departure.

33) Large quantities of food remaining is distributed to the homeless people in DeLand. (Following the Ordination Dinner, there was in fact, a sufficient quantity of food to share with the homeless, and they were *very pleased* to receive the food bounty from First Church.)

* **Good News Club** (a child Evangelism fellowship) was briefly discussed by Carol. Many of the women at the meeting were not aware of this organization, myself included. Carol, below is the Florida contact for this organization if you would like to further pursue. Their website did not mention any schools in nearby counties.

* **Libby**, thank you for providing the refreshments for our May meeting. The Spring theme of pink and green, coupled with the food you shared with all was very special!

Thank you everyone for reading these meeting notes to keep apprised of our discussions and activities.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 10th, 6:30PM in building #6.

Study: Psalm 90 lesson #3 – facilitator, Lisa Hightower

Devotion: Denise Gilman

Refreshments: Amanda Wigton -Dougherty

Have a good week and I will see you on our church campus soon.

Bev