

Subject: Notes from July 11 FCW gathering

Hello Everyone,

It was a fun evening with plenty of conversation and laughter. As I type this note, I am remembering Beverly Wituszynski's comment about a car wash. That was a hilarious moment! I'm picturing that visual .

### **July 11th meeting notes:**

- We welcomed [Rose Adams](#) and [Beverly Wituszynski's](#) (return) to our gathering last night and look forward to both of you returning and making this gathering a monthly part of staying connected to women at First Church Deland!
- **Opening Devotion** was shared by Beverly Drazul with a 'Sunday check-in' being read from Charles Stanley's In Touch Ministries teachings (July 9, 2023) titled: "Have you discovered a congregation to call home?" ([the next 2 bullet points and numbers 1-4 were read](#))
- "When considering a fellowship, believers should be humble and curious. Take time to quietly observe services and relationships. Then ask yourself whether the church teaches these four truths:
  1. Our Savior was both fully human and fully God.
  2. After His crucifixion and burial, Jesus was resurrected
  3. Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus
  4. The Bible is divine revelation given to us so that we can have a personal relationship with God.
- Our beliefs influence how we view God, others, and ourselves so it's important to choose a congregation wisely... What's important is to join the body of Christ and learn the truth about the God who loves you."

We know First Church Deland teaches these 4 truths! Following the above reading, Bev shared the First Church DeLand Mission and Vision statement (copied below from our church website)

**To intentionally share Christ's love and salvation as God directs.**

#### **Our Vision**

To become a congregation whose core values resonate throughout our church family in all we do; and who allows these values to guide and direct us to becoming more like Christ. We are committed to fulfilling the two great commandments given by Christ our Lord: As Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is

the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37); and: "And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands." (2 John 6). We believe God is faithful to lead us in all areas of our spiritual life. Therefore, we are committed to being a body which is obedient to the scriptures as God has given. Through our discipleship, faithful attendance in worship, and trusting God's provisions, we will become a Body of Christ which is pleasing to our Lord.

- **Financial update** was shared by [Pam Barlow](#): Current Total funds in account is: **\$2,139.05**.

- A brief explanation was shared (reiterated) where all FCW funds are now managed as a line item within the church financial recordings (rather than a separate checking account).
- A current statement of funds is provided by our church financial administrator, Kathy Smith, when requested by Pam. A *current* statement was reviewed by all attending the 7/11 gathering. Going Forward, these statements will be shared on a quarterly basis or more frequently as needed.
- Your future donations to the FCW account may be given via a church envelope. In the '[other](#)' field on the envelope, simply write "First Church Women" and your donations to the account will be recorded. (Of course, as I'm sure you all realize, any donation you make to the FCW account is separate from your weekly tithe.)
- Please note: Requests to replenish FCW account in the future will be a topic at our August 11th meeting.

- **Financial Decision was made:**

- At our July 11 gathering, it was voted/approved to give \$1,000 toward facility repairs for the church.
- [Pam Barlow](#) has contacted our Financial Administrator, Kathy Smith, to move the \$1,000 donation from FCW account to the church Capital account (or other account as designated for church repairs).
- [Bev Drazul](#) has contacted Barb Garich, church Administrator, to include a notice in the Sunday bulletin about the donation. FCW hope by including a note of our donation in the bulletin, it will inspire/motivate other ministry groups (and perhaps individuals?) to consider a donation to help with much needed church repairs.

- **Painting of church parsonage:** [Tammy Reyes](#) shared the painting was completed last week. Sufficient donations were given by church members which provided for both the contract labor and paint to complete the inside repainting! Thank you to all who contributed to this much needed painting.

Thank you to [Lisa Hightower](#) for provided the July refreshments. ([Teeter Mauldin](#) has signed up for refreshments for our August gathering)

We look forward to seeing everyone again as well as those who could not be with us last evening. As a reminder, **our next gathering is on Monday, August 14 at 6:00 PM.** ([Amanda Dougherty](#) has signed up to share the Opening Devotion in August.) During the gathering, we will review Bible verses of Acts 5:1-11 with Liz Curtis-Higgs in her discussion about Sapphira.

God's peace to everyone. We will see you around the church campus!

Bev Drazul, Pam Barlow, Lisa Hightower