

MARCH 2024



FCCB

TIDAL WAVE

First Christian Church of the Beaches

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Easter Activities -3

Elder's Corner
Bob Meador - 4

Prayer and Praise
Ministry - 5

Kid's Ministry
Joanne Beepot - 7

A DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Active Pursuit of God:

Cultivating a Dynamic Relationship

Introduction: In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it's easy to let our relationship with God take a backseat, becoming a passive aspect of our existence. However, the Scriptures emphasize the profound importance of actively working on our connection with the Divine, engaging in a dynamic and intentional relationship. This article delves into the reasons why an active pursuit of God is not only encouraged but also crucial for spiritual growth.

I. The Call to Seek God Diligently:

The Bible consistently urges believers to seek God with diligence and intention. In Psalm 119:2 (NIV), the psalmist declares, "Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart." This call to seek God with all our heart implies an active, wholehearted pursuit, transcending a passive approach. In Matthew 7:7 (NIV), Jesus Himself encourages this active seeking: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

II. The Concept of a Relationship:

God desires a relationship with His people, and relationships require active participation from both parties. In James 4:8 (NIV), the apostle James exhorts believers, "Come near to God and he will come near to you." This reciprocal nature of drawing near to God highlights the need for an engaged and proactive approach to our spiritual connection. In a healthy relationship, communication is key, and prayer serves as our direct line to God, fostering an active dialogue.

III. The Dangers of Spiritual Complacency:

Passivity in one's spiritual life can lead to complacency and a gradual drift away from God. The Bible warns against lukewarm faith in Revelation 3:16 (NIV), where Jesus says, "So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Actively engaging with God prevents spiritual stagnation, ensuring that our hearts remain fervent and our faith vibrant. draw closer to Him but also experience the transformative power of His love in our lives.

IV. The Role of Personal Responsibility:

In Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV), the apostle Paul emphasizes the role of personal responsibility in the Christian journey: "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." This passage highlights the synergy between human effort and divine empowerment. Our active pursuit of God aligns with His transformative work in our lives, creating a harmonious partnership.

V. Nourishing the Spirit Through Scripture:

An active relationship with God involves immersing ourselves in His Word. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV), Paul asserts, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." Regular study of Scripture becomes a proactive step in aligning our lives with God's principles, contributing to the depth and richness of our relationship with Him.

In conclusion, the Scriptures consistently advocate for an active pursuit of God, urging believers to seek Him with intentionality and dedication. Through prayer, relationship building, guarding against complacency, taking personal responsibility, and immersing ourselves in His Word, we can cultivate a dynamic connection with God. As we actively engage in our relationship with God, we not only draw closer to Him but also experience the transformative power of His love in our lives.



You're invited to experience hope during Easter at the Beach. Join the rest of our community for a special **SUNRISE** Easter Worship on our Oceanfront Property. You will experience a resurrection drama, sing joyous praise, share in communion and hear a powerful message of how your new life starts here! It is a life changing event you don't want to miss!

Elder's Corner

by Bob Meador



I don't know if your family is like mine when it comes to taking pictures, but in every household of my extended family there is a box or boxes of old photographs. Yes, actual paper pictures, no digital stuff in there. The box or boxes are usually hidden away in a closet or cabinet somewhere, out of sight, out of mind. I usually "discover" them again when I'm looking for something else. I don't know what it is about the pictures, but I'll start thumbing through them and am emotionally swept away in memories.

Pictures taken at this time of the year, Easter, I find pictures of 4 kids, 2 boys and 2 girls, dressed in matching clothes. Mom made the girls' dresses and the boys' shirts out of the same material. The boys have fresh haircuts and the girls' hairdos are freshly coiffed. All the pictures are taken outside in the sunshine and beautiful Spring weather.

Some of the pictures show us arranged as stair-steps, others with our Easter baskets, full of the eggs we decorated the previous afternoon. Decorating the eggs was a major production, Mom would hard-boil the eggs and give each one of us the same number of eggs to decorate. We would arrange the bowls with the dye in them, with a lot of newspaper under them to absorb the spillage. We could use a wax pencil to make designs on the eggs before dipping into the dye and the dye wouldn't penetrate the dye, leaving white where we drew the designs. We always made a mess, but it was fun.

Easter Sunday always began by going to church. There, everyone was dressed in mostly new clothes and several ladies wore their Easter bonnets. I remember them as being brightly colored, big and frilly. After church, we had a big lunch, usually with some relatives coming over. Then, finally, after lunch it was time for the Easter egg hunt! There weren't any prizes for the "Most Gathered" or any "Golden" eggs, just the thrill of trying to find all of the eggs. Then once again, Mom would count all the eggs and make sure everyone had the same number in their baskets.

Easter, a time of new beginnings and new life. Only Christians could take an event, the crucifixion of a blameless man, and turn it into the most significant event in human history. Our God sent His only Son to die on the cross for our sins and then rise from the grave so that we could have a new beginning and a new life. Glory be to God!

Prayer Ministry

by Murray Trotta

JOIN US FOR FIRST SUNDAY PRAYER AND PRAISE SERVICE



The FCCB Prayer Ministry is again sponsoring our annual Easter Prayer Vigil. This 24-hour period is set aside to offer up your Easter prayers of need and thanksgiving to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Easter Prayer Vigil sign-up board will be in the Fellowship Hall starting March 3rd. There are 48 half-hour prayer shifts starting at 5 pm on Good Friday, March 29 and ending at 5 pm on Holy Saturday, March 30.

All sessions are to be conducted in the convenience of your home or office-not at the church.

Remember Jesus said to his disciples:

“Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” (Luke 22:46)


Why not pray with Jesus for just a half-hour as we await Easter morning?

Mission Moment

by Barbara Lynn, Mission Team Leader

Love in Action

*"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me."
Matthew 25:45*




Blanket the world in **love**

**FCCB BLANKET DRIVE WITH CWS
STARTS FEB 18TH AND ENDS MAR 15TH**

The CWS Blankets program is all about sharing love. Through this simple act of kindness, amazing things can happen. Thank you for your generosity, kindness and desire to share warmth, compassion and blankets with others.

- \$10** CWS Blanket
- \$25** CWS Blanket and a CWS Hygiene Kit
- \$30** Three CWS Blankets (two wool and one fleece)
- \$45** Three CWS Blankets and a CWS Hygiene Kit
- \$60** Blanket Bundle! Three wool CWS Blankets and three fleece CWS Blankets

Imagine the possibilities of your compassion. **Scan this QR Code** to donate to CWS Blankets today.

Scan Me! 

MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

"And don't forget to do good and share with those in need."
— HEBREWS 13:16

Every seat in our sanctuary represents someone whose faith pours out in love and service. Each person at FCCB has the opportunity to change part of the world for the better.

We can't always be right there with someone in need, but Church World Service (CWS) Blankets are a way to make a difference. CWS provides thousands of blankets worldwide each year to those who need them. For many, a simple blanket given when they most need it is a loving way to offer warmth, to offer hope, to be the hands of Christ. Many people without homes have a daily challenge of fighting the bitter cold. Around the world, disasters force people from their homes, sending them to shelters and refugee camps where a blanket can make a big difference.

FCCB's Blanket Drive has started. Our goal is to provide 200 blankets. It's not too late to donate funds to purchase a blanket. Make your check or electronic gift to FCCB with the memo BLANKET SUNDAY. Help blanket the world with love for the glory of God. Your support means comfort for neighbors who are facing displacement, disaster, or the strain of poverty. Every \$10 donation provides a sturdy, comforting blanket to a child or adult, giving them warmth, shelter, hope and security during cold or trying times.

Kid's Ministry

By Joanne Beepot

ENGAGE WITH OUR CHILDREN: YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO THEM

There's a special magic that happens within FCCB, and it centers around the incredible role our Kids' and Youth Ministries and Members play in nurturing the tender souls of our youngest members. It's not just about programs – it's a symphony of care, love, connection, and shared joy, where each of you holds a unique role. At FCCB, we love our kids and youth. We want them to have a great relationship with God. It is our mission and passion.

In this beautiful journey, you aren't just volunteers and members; you're the Aunts, Uncles, Grandmothers, and Grandfathers who sprinkle love on the spiritual growth of our kids and youth. Your active involvement is the secret ingredient that turns ordinary moments into extraordinary memories. As mentors and guides, you're not just passing on biblical knowledge; you're living, breathing examples of the Christian principles we hold dear. A simple smile and a genuine interest in a child's day become powerful tools in making Godly principles real and relatable. In your hands, love, kindness, and empathy aren't just words – they exemplify the Godly characteristics of our shared faith.

This impact isn't confined to our church walls; it ripples through our entire community. Through your engagement, you're knitting a fabric of support, creating a safety net where families lean on each other during tough times. Your shared experiences become threads that weave resilience into the very fabric of our church community. Your role extends beyond teaching; you're the storytellers, passing down the richness of our Christian faith. Through your tales and shared adventures, you connect the younger generation to God in a way that's real, meaningful, and unforgettable. You're the living bridge that spans generations.

This isn't just a Sunday obligation; it's a collective effort, a shared responsibility that should be a part of every time you attend church. Your involvement with our young members is not just an investment; it's an ongoing inspiration, a beacon of guidance, and a source of stability. In your hands, questions find a safe space, curiosity is celebrated, and growth is not only encouraged but lovingly nurtured.

You are more than needed – you're the heart and soul of our church. Your active participation in Kids and Youth Ministries is a living testament to our commitment to building strong foundations of faith. Through your engagement, you're not just shaping the present; you're crafting a legacy that will be passed down through generations. Take a moment today to get to know a child or youth a little better. In these small gestures, you're sowing seeds of love that will bloom into a garden of faith, connecting our community in ways we can't even imagine. There are many volunteer opportunities available in both the Kid's and Youth Ministries. Contact any member of the staff to get involved. We need and appreciate you.



Stewardship

by Bill Gowen

Stewardship of Time

Each of us have been given enough time to accomplish God's purpose for us on this planet. The Scriptures exhort us to invest our time wisely, reminding us that God determines the length of our stay on earth. "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16). Toward the end of his life, Moses prayed, "So teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom" (Ps. 90:12).

Time is our most valuable asset, but without a proper perspective, we will spend it foolishly. A biblical perspective on time involves several things: (1) Life is brief, and we cannot be presumptuous about the future (Jas. 4:14). (2) The eternal gives meaning to the temporal (Rom. 13:11; 2 Cor. 4:18). (3) Like other assets, our time is owned by God (Ps. 31:15). (4) We must be sensitive to opportunities so that we can make the most of them (Eccles. 8:5; Col. 4:5). (5) Our use of time will reflect our priorities (Matt. 6:19-21,34).

Just as it is wise to budget our financial resources (see below), it is also wise to budget our use of time. Most time is wasted not in hours, but in minutes. If we do not regularly assess the way we spend our 168 hours per week, our schedules will get cluttered with activities that may be good, but not the best. How much quality time do we spend with the Lord, with our spouse, with our children, and with our non-Christian friends? God wants us to be faithful stewards, not squanderers, of the time He has given us.



Seniors on a Missions

by Allen Wankat

First Christian Seniors on a Mission (SAM) volunteers helped rebuild a United Way Poverty Simulation kit on January 30. This activity was held at the church. The project builds understanding of issues faced by families living at or slightly above the poverty level. Another rebuild at First Christian is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7. The session is scheduled from 10 – 2, with lunch served.

Seniors on a Mission also scheduled and conducted a mission trip at the First Coast Women's Center at 10 a.m. on February 14. This mission trip was a wonderful Christian volunteer opportunity! Anyone who wishes notification about SAM activities should send their e-mail address and request to wankat_m@yahoo.com. Also, we would ask that the present group of volunteers send confirmation of their e-mail address and update their ongoing interest in these worthwhile projects.

Library News

by Carole Moore and Gino Valet



“Outside of a dog, a book is “man's best friend.” Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.”
~Groucho Marx~

New to the shelves:

BABYLON, History & Prophecies, by David Hocking (History Shelf) A short book by one of my previous, weekly Bible Teachers; the most knowledgeable man on the Old Testament I've ever heard (Gino).

THEN SINGS MY SOUL, by Robert Morgan (History) History of the rest-of-the-story about the most famous traditional hymns, with music and words included.

SO YOU WANT TO BE LIKE CHRIST? by Chuck Swindoll (Christian Living) Inspired by the acts of sacrifice and discipline exemplified by the D-Day generation as well as the current generation of young American soldiers, many Christians today are looking for an obedient, disciplined approach to faith. This user-friendly book guides readers toward a greater understanding of eight spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith—prayer, humility, self-control, sacrifice, submission, solitude, silence, and hope. Each chapter defines and discusses the concept, then provides interactive assignments and suggestions for further study, as well as content summaries and outlines that aid in retention.

Bible donations are needed for the reference copy shelf:

- NET = New English Translation by Nelson Pub.
- The AMPLIFIED Bible.
- HCSB = Hohman Christian Standard Bible.
- The MESSAGE Bible.

The library is no longer accepting Fiction, Daily Devotionals, study workbooks, nor children's books. You can donate these to Beam, Salvation Army, or other such organizations.

Christian Women's Fellowship

by Betty Chinnis



ATTENTION ALL LADIES:

Don't miss out on the opportunity to meet and fellowship with some of the wonderful ladies of our church. Our usual meeting time is the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10:00 in the Ocean View room on the second floor of the educational building.

At our January meeting the following officers were installed:

President: Jeanie Peters

Vice-President: Pam Mangine

Secretary: Rebecca Zellars

Treasurer: Bobbie Marcum

Program Leader: Nancy Barrett

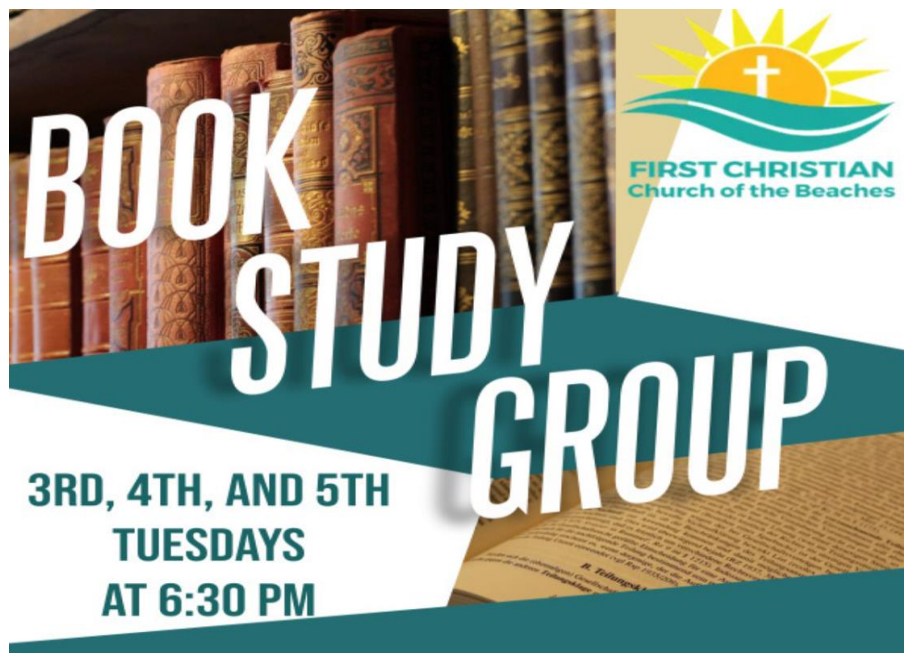
Service Leader: Barbara Lynn

Nancy Barrett led us in the program in which she gave each member a Bible verse that we read aloud and then shared a personal event in our lives for which we were especially thankful. Some were very serious, and some were light-hearted. This was a special time for all who were in attendance.

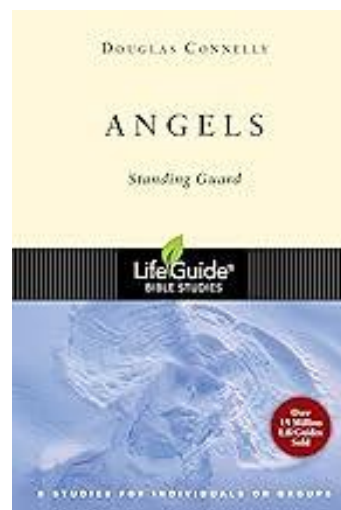
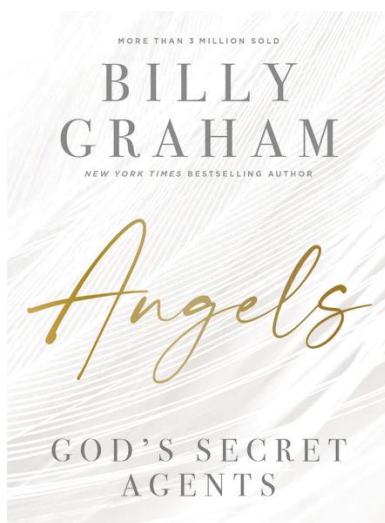
On January 15th we hosted the party at Pablo Towers for those celebrating January birthdays. Everyone there had a blast! We will host the birthday party at Florida Christian Center on February 12th.

Upcoming: We will be taking orders for the famous Rada soups and other Rada products during the month of March. Tables will be set up in Fellowship Hall after the 9:00 and 11:00 worship services.

New Women's Christian Book Study



First Christian Church of the Beaches has a Tuesday evening book study group led by FCBB Church member Jacqui Suarez. It meets in room 203 on the third, fourth, and fifth Tuesdays each month, from 6:30-8:15 pm. On Tuesday, February 20, a new study started from the famous evangelist Reverend Billy Graham entitled "Angels, God's Secret Agents." We will also study questions from Douglas Connelly's book called "Angels, Standing Guard." Please come ready to discuss the first few chapters and make some new friends. This group of ladies likes discussion! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jacqui Suarez at jacsuarez@yahoo.com or message her at the church office.



FCCB Church Activities



Sunday nights FCCB Kids, grades K-5, meet at 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm (dinner provided)

Sunday nights FCCB Students, grades 6-12, meet, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm (dinner provided)

Adult Sunday School Classes, 3 Classes are available at 10:00am

FIRST SUNDAY PRAYER AND PRAISE SERVICE, from 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm, (every 1st Sunday of each month), there will be a prayer time, to pray for the church, community, and each other. Please meet in the Sanctuary, The Prayer Ministry Team will be there to greet you.

Weekly

Sundays at 10:00 am – 3 Bible Classes are available. Betty Chinnis' Bible Class, and Bible and Life Bible Class meet upstairs. Bible 101 meets in Room 101 in the Fellowship Hall.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday at 6:30 am – Meet for a 45-minute Walk and Prayer session at the Beach. Let's get ready for summer. Meet at the Church Parking Lot.

Tuesdays at 1:00 pm – Marti Wade's Bible Study, Fundamentals of Faith

Tuesdays at 6:00 pm – Don Lynn's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm - Christian Book Study, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. This is held on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Tuesdays of each month. This month's topic is Angels, God's Secret Agents.

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm – Choir Practice. Contact Susan Amos at [806-679-8017](tel:806-679-8017) for more information about joining the Praise Band and the Choir. Musicians and Singers are welcomed!

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm – New Prayer Group starting March 14th, Praying for our Adult Children. Please order Praying for Your Adult Children by Stormie Omartian for this Class.

Thursdays at 6:00 pm – Don Peter's Bible Study

Monthly

First Wednesday Fellowship Dinners - 5:30 pm. There is no Fellowship Meal this month. This is an Elder sponsored event. Get a delicious dinner for \$7 and enjoy fellowship and fun activities. Look for details on future Fellowship Events in the Church bulletins.

Christian Women's Fellowship meets on the **4th Tuesday each month at 10:00 am** in the Ocean Front classroom upstairs. In April, the CWF meeting will be moved to the 4th Thursday of each month. All the ladies of the church are automatically members and are welcome to join.

There are numerous AA and GA Meetings held at FCCB on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturday Nights.

Get Involved in FCCB and volunteer or participate in one of the many ministries. For more information, contact the Church Office at 904-246-2010. Be an active part of FCCB. Contact a Staff Member at 904-246-2010 to explore opportunities to make a difference at FCCB.



Points of Contact 2024

Leadership Council

Don Lynn – Chair dnrlynn@gmail.com

Bill Gowen – folkstongowen@gmail.com

Rita Vernon – Lead Elder ritavern@gmail.com

Carolyn Jones Popp wmpop@hotmail.com

Mark Lopiano lopianomark@yahoo.com

Mike Amos – Ex Officio mike.amos@fc2b.org

Nathan Loewen – Ex Officio nathan.loewen@gc2b.org

Council of Elders

Rita Vernon – Lead Elder ritavern@gmail.com 2026

Don Lynn – Chair dnrlynn@gmail.com 2024

Betty Chinnis - bdchinnis@comcast.net 2025

Bill Gowen – folkstongowen@gmail.com 2024

Don Peters – jepmimi@bellsouth.net 2025

Nancy Barrett – nancyvannbarrett@bellsouth.net – 2026

Diane Stevenson - dsspine2@gmail.com - 2026

Nathan Lowen – Ex Officio nathan.loewen@fc2b.org

Body of Trustees

Carolyn Jones Popp – Chair wmpop@hotmail.com

Mark Lopiano lopianomark@yahoo.com

Pat Mills rpmills@bellsouth.net

Jim Vernon jrvern@bellsouth.net

David MacInnes davidmacinnes57@gmail.com

Gloria Butler – recording secretary bchbutz@bellsouth.net Nathan Loewen Ex Officio nathan.loewen@fc2b.org

Council of Deacons

Brenda Snyder – Chair beachjazzzer@gmail.com – 2024 Karen Blackwell - karenbackwell63@gmail.com – 2027

Gary Grider – griderconstructioninc@yahoo.com 2027

Brenda Brown (Munson) – bbbrown814@icloud.com 2025

Deb Rogers – drogers0529@gmail.com 2026

Rebecca Zellers rz4119@yahoo.com 2024

Chuck Duran - duranchuck3@gmail.com 2027



March 2024 Prayers

OUR MEMBERS

Al-Banna Family
Bennett, Bud/Barbara
Claytor, Jim
Cooper, Geri
Duran, Chuck
Leslie Hale
Hernandez, Pat
Hibbard, Adriene
Hibbard, Brandy
Hibbard Family
Horn Family
Lain Family
Lim, Dolly
Mangine, Bill/Pam
Mangine Family
Mangine, Karen
Marcum, Bobbie/John
Meador, Bob
Meador Family
Moran Sr, Bryan
Porter Family
Robbins, Paul
Schoonover, Carol
Simmons, Danny
Smith, Betty
Speevack, Peachie
Stiehl, Paul/Ruth
Taylor, Jessie
Terrell Family
VanDusen, Gloria
Walker, Chuck/Phyllis
Pastors and Missionaries

RELATIVES OF MEMBERS

H Arbaugh, Noland
U (*Jim/Val Peau*)
H Beal, Amanda
H (*Paul/Ruth Stiehl*)
H Connor, Jimmy
H (*Betty Mills*)
H Dufrene, Armand
H (*Carla Tracy*)
H Edmonds, Beverly Cooper
H (*Geri Cooper*)
G Johnnie
G (*Ruth Forrest*)
H Jones, Rick
H (*Rita Vernon*)
G Kalahear, Cathy
U (*Charlie/Paula Setters*)
H Kathleen
H (*Ruth Forest*)
G Malcolm, Reed
U (*Peachie Speevack*)
G Mitchell, Jeff
H (*Bill/Cher Mitchell*)
H Morejo, Nick
H (*Ruth Stiehl*)
H Moon, Teari
H (*Charlie Setters*)
H Morgan, Buddy
H (*Rita Vernon*)
G Mullins, Tasha
H (*Pam Mangine*)
H Porotessano, Mema
H (*Jim Peau*)
H Rasco, Suzanne/Austin
H (*Ruth Stiehl*)
H Shellenberger Bob/Margaret
H (*John Campbell*)
H Terrell, Jay
H (*Terry Terrell*)

FRIENDS OF MEMBERS

Baby Leo & Family
H (*Nancy Broner*)
H Caudle, Aubrey
H (*Barbara/Don Lynn*)
H Cobb, Mike/Phyllis
H (*Don/Barbara Lynn*)
U Crawford, Karen
H (*Sherry Bevis*)
H Dothard, Bernice
H (*Church*)
H Fernald, Vanessa
H (*John Campbell*)
H Geiger, Rhonda
H (*Don Lynn*)
H Joe S.
H (*Paul Robbins*)
H Johnston, Jessie
H (*Betty Smith*)
H Mackee, Ann
H (*Paul/Ruth Stiehl*)
U McCoy, Cameron
H (*Sherry Bevis*)
H Nay, David
H (*Don Peters*)
U O'Brien, Sherry
H (*Marti Miller*)
U Oglesbee, Diane
H (*Marti Miller*)
H Treadwell, Theresa
H (*Tracy Antzaklis*)

PERSONAL PRAYERS

OTHERS

- Relocated Members
- Medical staff & Medical support personnel
- Assisted living & Nursing home residents & staff
- First Coast Women's Services
- Educational System
- BEAM / Mission House
- Iglesia Evangelica Bethel
- Police, First Responders and their families
- Youth & Gang Violence
- Military & their families
- Persecuted Christians
- Racial Reconciliation
- Disaster Victims
- Isolation of Individuals
- End All Shootings
- War in Ukraine
- AA Meetings at our Church
- Atlantic Beach Classical Conversations
- Homeschool
- Co-op

FRIENDS IN NEED

Prayer Codes

- G** Grief
J Job
H Health Issues
P Prison
I Injury
R Relationships
T Travel
U Unspoken

Member relationships are shown in parenthesis