



CAPTIVA CHAPEL BY THE SEA
A PLACE WHERE GOD LIVES



ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 6TH, 2025

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Captiva Chapel by the Sea
President's Report 2025 Annual Meeting
Submitted by Kathy Knoblauch

We were looking forward to a relatively “normal” Chapel season, but Hurricanes Helene and Milton presented many challenges for our faith community. The Sunday services led by Reverend Doug Dortch filled our souls with timely sermons that were inspiring, educational and thought-provoking.

The Board, chaired by Ellen Sloan, launched the Chapel season on November 10, 2024 with attendees seated outside. Bob Johnson and his crew removed tons of sand that had surrounded the Chapel and yard. We appreciated all the time and effort Bob and his crew dedicated to the Chapel in order to offer outside services. The historic building shifted off its blocks and the Board investigated a plan to elevate the structure. Jake Miller has been instrumental in coordinating this project.

Ellen handed off the duties of Board President to me on January 1, 2025. Officers for 2025-2026 will be: Kathy Knoblauch-President, Nathalie Pyle-Vice President, Dennis Berry-Treasurer, Missy Calkin-Recording Secretary and Karen Cox-Corresponding Secretary.

Joan Gruver, Don McDonald and Janie Adams have been elected to the Board as the terms of Stephanie Bissett, Ellen Sloan and Valerie Tutor have ended. We thank Stephanie, Ellen and Valerie for their participation and valuable service to the Chapel. We appreciate you!

Thank you to Chip and Nancy Roach for their support in getting the parsonage ready in November. Thanks to Marilyn Lewis for organizing our greeters, Nancy Roach and helpers for offering hospitality to our attendees, Karen Cox for scheduling donors for altar flowers and Pat Boris for her dedication in updating the prayer chain. Thank you to George Campean for being the Treasurer during a season of multiple restoration donations and insurance needs. We appreciated the dedication of Lynne Campean for organizing the memorable Christmas Eve service.

Thank you to Chip for serving as Communications Chair, Nathalie for chairing the Pulpit Search Committee, Jake for leading the Buildings and Grounds Committee and Missy for chairing the Nominating Committee that will add three new Board members to our monthly gatherings. In addition, we thank Nathalie for coordinating all items related to the Historic Cemetery and scheduling monthly lunches at Shell Point.

Thank you to our Music Director, Lynne Dugan, for sharing her talents and scheduling all the musical guests that added to the joy of our services. Thank you to Bob Dugan for his expertise with regards to the sound system. Thank you to Chris Bright and Jorge Corral for their technical skills needed to produce the online service. Thank you to our song leaders, Missy, Pat and Nathalie, for leading us in our hymns and responses. Thank you to the ushers who collected the offerings. Thank you to Doug and Judy for their support and we look forward to their presence next season.

The Board is grateful to all the volunteers and attendees that make the Chapel such a welcoming, caring and spiritual community.

“Anything but Middling”

I've always been intrigued by how words are formed – what linguists call “etymology.” Most of the time, words have a story behind their formation. And sometimes they come out of existing words, though with a slightly different meaning.

Consider, for example, the word “middling.” If that word sounds like the word “middle,” there's a reason for it. “Middling” came about in England in the late 14th century and became associated with something between another thing, hence its connection to “middle.” But over the centuries, “middling” took on a more negative connotation so that it came to refer to that which is ordinary, commonplace, and mediocre. You've likely heard the phrase “fair to middling,” which people say when asked about how things are going for them. It's not a ringing endorsement of one's life by any stretch of the imagination.

As I've been thinking about this middle season at the Chapel for Judy and me, I've come to see how nothing about this year has been pedestrian or uneventful. We've only recently been able to return to being inside on Sunday morning so that the rest of the season carried persistent concerns on what the weather might be like each Sunday morning. On top of that, we had to deal with the aftermath of hurricane damage, which involved raising no small amount of money to make sure that we didn't have to dip into our reserves. And through it all, it was important to keep everything as normal as possible, because the constancy was good for our souls.

So, I can honestly say that this “middle” season was hardly middling. Thanks to God's abiding grace and the faithfulness of our congregation to it, we met every challenge and emerged stronger for it. Each Sunday seemed to build on the previous one so that in many ways we will look back at this time as one of the most memorable ones in the life of the Chapel.

Thank you for your commitment to stay the course this season, even when it would have been easy to become complacent and, well, “middling.” I trust that you, as I do, will think of these past months as ones that have brought you both great joy and even greater peace. And I hope that as we think about the year to come, our last one with you, we will use our common experience to stay strong, keep the faith, and finish well.

Captive Chapel by the Sea
Missions and Outreach Committee 2025 Annual Meeting Report
Submitted by Kathy Knoblauch, Committee Chairperson

Committee Members: Susen Berg, Pat Boris, Judy Dortch, Reverend Doug Dortch, Nathalie Pyle, Nancy Roach, Lynne Campean, Kathy Knoblauch, Kris Ryckman, Blair Wyatt, Joan Gruver, Stephanie Bissett, Karen Cox and Marilyn Lewis

The Board allocated \$60,000.00 for current agencies and scholarships that the Chapel supports. Questionnaires were completed by the agencies and in-person local visits were made. The people who visited the agency reported back to the Committee and recommended a donation amount.

Current Agencies: _____

ECHO	\$3,500.00
<i>(Educational Concerns for Hunger Organizations)</i>	
Community Housing and Resources.	\$6,000.00
The Heights Center	\$6,000.00
The Dubin Center	\$2,000.00
FISH of SanCap.	\$6,600.00
South Fort Myers Food Pantry	\$5,000.00
The Quality Life Center.	\$7,000.00
Community Cooperative	\$3,500.00
El Hogar	\$800.00
Trailways	\$1,000.00

Scholarships: _____

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)	\$2,000.00
The Quality Life Center.	\$3,000.00
The Heights Center	\$3,000.00
FISH of SanCap.	\$4,000.00

The FGCU donation is used for tuition for two students (\$1,000.00 each.) Quality Life Center, The Heights Center and FISH of SanCap use this donation for financial assistance for their summer programs.

This report was printed prior to our last Committee meeting on April 4, 2025. We plan to finish up our agency donations at this meeting.

The Missions Table was set up on Sundays before and after the service in order to sell fans, notecards, and postcards to Chapel attendees. Committee members took turns helping at the table. The profits from these purchases were donated to the Missions agencies.

A Food Drive hosted by the Missions Committee was held on Sunday, February 16, 2025. Over 10 bags of food and paper products were collected. In addition, \$1,500.00 was donated to two local non-profits: FISH of SanCap and the South Fort Myers Food Pantry. The Missions Committee thanks all those who donated to the Food Drive for their generosity which helped to make the lives a bit better for local people in need.

The agency donations and scholarships were distributed with the purpose of serving the needs of people near and far with an emphasis on children, families, and seniors. I wish to acknowledge the Committee Members for their commitment, diligence, and sincere caring that they demonstrated in order to complete this important work.

Buildings and Grounds – Annual Report for 2024-25

Committee Members:

Jake Miller, George Campean, Mark Calkin, Bob Johnson

Hurricane Milton flooded the Chapel grounds with 1 – 3 feet of sand and debris. It pushed the Chapel off its foundation and packed the floor joists with wet sand. The garage had about a foot of water, the office and rest room had a few inches, but the parsonage did not flood.

Bob Johnson and his team immediately began clearing the grounds to allow access to the property. He removed major amounts of sand and vegetation in record time, ensuring the office, bathroom, garage for hospitality, and grounds were ready for our first outdoor service on November 10th. The parsonage received new attic insulation and ductwork prior to Doug and Judy's arrival.

A local contractor read about our Chapel on Facebook and offered to lift it and build a new foundation for free. Personal and professional problems prevented this generous offer from being completed. On January 16th we met with Warren Davie of Davie Shoring. He agreed to lift the Chapel at the same cost he bid back in late October and added new access steps at no cost. The Chapel lift was completed during the week of February 10th and a wedding was held inside on February 20th. The new foundation permit application was sent in on March 6th, and now we wait for approval.

Repairs to fencing on the grounds and cemetery have been completed. New landscaping in the Chapel yard and the parsonage is complete. A cemetery sand removal day was organized, and many volunteers uncovered headstones, shoveled and wheelbarrowed sand. But an immense volume of sand remained, and Stewart Island Construction was hired to remove all remaining sand in the cemetery, which was completed in late December.

Lifting the Chapel required cutting power and AV cables. Bob Johnson purchased the electrical materials and rewired power to the Chapel himself..... at a cost of just 10% of our original estimate. Chris Bright and his staff have provided excellent service for onsite audio and live streaming services all season. Special challenges for Christmas Eve and moving back into the Chapel were resolved using Bright Idea's portable cameras, lights, and speakers. Sunday, March 30, 2025, was our first day back in the Chapel this season.

We have ordered a 20 x 40 shade tent for our Easter service. This summer we are planning to renovate the office, garage and restroom. The plan is to eliminate musty smells, isolate our equipment and staff for live streaming services, and provide permanent facilities for hospitality.

Many thanks to the Chapel's volunteers and contractors who have helped us successfully navigate through another year of special challenges.

Respectfully submitted,
Jake Miller

Captiva Chapel by the Sea
Treasurer's Report 2025 Annual Meeting
Submitted by George Campean, Treasurer and chair of finance committee

Hurricanes Helene and Milton hit Captiva Island with tremendous winds and water. The devastation and work required to repair the church and cemetery needed massive resources.

Friends of the Chapel answered that call! Several of the largest donations in Chapel history. One donor raised a challenge for matching funds to which the community responded beyond expectations.

As of 3/26/2025 **we raised over \$400,000.00** in recovery donations and we anticipate **\$500,000.00 in total by the end of May.**

To date **we have spent \$350,000.00 and we may spend another \$350,000.00** on completion of repairs and additional work.

We have not yet used any funds from our Schwab investments.

At this point **we have \$1.3 million in those Historic Captiva Chapel funds.**

We propose that from investments we will allocate **\$600,000.00 for future emergency repairs**, allocated **\$200,000.00 for the cemetery** and **\$400,000.00 for the Chapel, parsonage and garage/minister's office.**

I wish to thank the Finance Committee for their participation this season.

Committee members were Doug Ryckman, Dennis Berry, Mike Bennett, Chip Roach and John Darby.

Communications Committee Annual Meeting Report

Members: Ken Jacobs, Valerie Tutor, Rev. Doug Dortch,
(Ed Anderson and Kathy Knoblauch for web site redesign).
Consultant for design and Internet is Angela Carrion of Angchan Design.
Chair: Chip Roach

Goals this season were to reach our regulars, visitors and the local community with news of Chapel challenges plus events.

Hurricanes Helene & Milton caused concern for our building.

Our Christmas Eve service was again attended by close to 700.

Fundraising has been spectacular to help our recovery.

Cemetery clean up by volunteers was meaningful work.

Kathy Knoblauch is new board chair, replacing Ellen Sloan.

Our first service inside the building in March was a landmark.

Upcoming Easter service with hundreds attending.

Our continued growth in our Internet congregation was heartening.

Hundreds per week watch our service, 3,300 “followers” on our Facebook page is a major accomplishment since Covid.

Primary vehicles: Friendly Faces list of 100 names plus Big List (1,000)

Local publications: Santiva Chronicle, Islander, SanCap Chamber, Facebook and captivachapel.com web site.

Future plans:

Redesign of our web site for more ease of use and continued expansion of weekly journals and storage of information.

Search for new Pastor while Pastor Doug Dortch continues for season 2025/2026. Invitation to visiting sermons.

Summer videos by Pastor Doug will be weekly features on Facebook

Completion of our lifting/leveling and new foundation will be reported this spring and summer.

Communications committee is always open for **new members** to attend its three meetings per year to improve contact with the congregation.

Smile for the camera

Captiva Chapel by the Sea
Pulpit Committee Report
Annual Meeting
April 6, 2025

The search for the next minister for the Captiva Chapel by the Sea has begun.

A three-season term for Chapel ministers has been our standard since 1948. Rev. Dr. Doug Dortch is in the second year of his three-year term. The next minister's term will begin in November of 2026. The Chapel is open from November through April.

We are seeking an ordained, retired Protestant minister. The Chapel has a history of selecting outstanding ministers who are Bible based, Christ centered, articulate preachers as well as caring counselors. Because the Chapel is intentionally non-denominational, the Pulpit Committee does not consider candidates of the same denomination as our current minister. Rev. Dr. Dortch is an ordained Baptist minister.

The Pulpit Committee has reached out to our congregation, to past Chapel ministers, and members of the island clergy for names of qualified potential candidates. We continue to receive inquiries from interested candidates. Our committee reviews resumes, listens to sermons available on video, does phone interviews with candidates, and checks references in order to find the most qualified candidates with the best fit for our Chapel ministry.

When our committee has narrowed our search to a few candidates, they will be invited to visit the Chapel this fall, meet with our Pulpit Committee and regular Chapel attendees, and present a mini service for all interested to attend. Our goal is to have our next minister selected by the end of calendar year 2025.

Pulpit Committee members are: Nathalie Pyle, Chair, Susen Berg, Mark Calkin, Karen Cox, Rita Ewell, Jake Miller, Chip Roach, Doug Ryckman, and Kathy Knoblauch (Chapel President).

Please contact Nathalie Pyle, nrpyle@comcast.net, with questions you might have for the Pulpit Committee.

Chapel Annual Meeting 2025

Every year we have this annual meeting, I reflect on what to report on the prayer chain.

How many prayer requests came in? How heartfelt? What are the trends? Or this... Is God a better listener this year? What's the success rate?

This year I reflect on the effect of prayer on us, the pray-ers. I'm learning how to pray. One day I was having a walking meditation, taking in the God infused nature around me. Breathing God given air, feeling God given breezes on God given skin. We were conversing, God and I.

I tend to think that I call out to God, and God answers. A type of call and response. Isaiah 65:1 reads **“I say I am here, I am here” That's God talking.** Earlier in Isaiah, he heard the voice of the Lord **“whom shall I send? And Isaiah said, Here I am, send me”**

It seems God uses people.

God went before us, and is now... and as the prayer says, “ever shall be”.

Jesus broke into history as a man who showed us how to live and how to die, how to have friends, how to pray, and how to love.

Then, the Christ, joined in trinity, surrounds us in a God soaked world.

God is here.

I say, I am here, I am here. Before I ask for anything, God is here, and puts to words the longings we ask of him.... Already here.

Our response as prayers is **Here I am, Lord, send me**

Jesus broke into history to show us how to live, to die, to be a friend, to pray and to love. So maybe the prayer chain “success rate’ has to do with each of us becoming more and more aware of Christ’s presence and continued work in the world.

And here we are. “Here I am, Lord, send me”



Captiva Chapel Annual Report April 2025 Nominating Committee Report

Committee members: Missy Calkin: Chair, Kathy Knoblauch,
Nathalie Pyle and Doug Ryckman

2025-2026 Executive Committee

President – Kathy Knoblauch Treasurer – Dennis Berry
Vice President – Nathalie Pyle Secretary - Melissa Calkin
Recording Secretary - Karen Cox

New Directors

Joan Gruver, Don McDonald, Janie Adams

Class of 2025-26

3rd Marilyn Lewis
3rd Karen Cox
3rd Nathalie Pyle
6th Missy Calkin
6th George Campean
6th Ken Jacobs

Class of 2026-27

2nd Ed Anderson
2nd Colin Black
2nd Rita Ewell
5th Doug Ryckman
5th Joan Gruver

Class of 2027 - 28

1st Janie Adams
1st Don McDonald
4th Dennis Berry
4th Kathy Knoblauch

Captiva Chapel nominating committee biographies of new board April '25

Joan Gruver:

Joan Gruver lives in Gulfside Place, Sanibel, with her husband Bill and their companion Gwenyth since 2016. She holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from the State University of New York at Potsdam and an M.Ed. from Teachers College of Columbia University.

Her career in early childhood education spanned from New York City to rural Pennsylvania, where she is a member of Eagles Mere Community Church and serves as the congregation's Child Advocate.

After retiring from teaching, she focused on improving access to health and dental services for impoverished children and families. She founded and continues to support a dental clinic in rural Pennsylvania, earning the title of Community Rural Health Leader of the Year in 2012.

Since moving to Florida, she has volunteered with Community Cooperative in Fort Myers, FISH of Sanibel, and mentors high school students at the Guadalupe Center in Immokalee.

Janie Adams:

I am Janie Adams, born and raised in Nashville, TN and currently reside in its suburb Brentwood with my husband of 42 years, Alan and our Cairn Terrier, Abigail. Our honeymoon brought us to Captiva in 1982 and we have returned every year since, vacationing with our children and now wintering here January to April. Alan and I have 3 grown children, Hunter (Aimee), Clay (Kristie) and Allie. We are blessed that Hunter and Clay along with our 5 grandchildren live 5 minutes from us. Our daughter, Allie lives in Dallas, TX. When on Captiva, our home is on the bay in Sunset Captiva. My husband is a semi-retired residential home building contractor. We are a family-owned business with him in charge of getting the houses built and me taking care of the financial and office tasks that come with the business. We have transitioned into the rental market in the last few years as it seems Nashville has become a desirable place to be.

For many years we passed by the Chapel on our way to the beach during those Spring Break weeks, not aware of what we were missing out on. After we started wintering here, we have found that attending the Chapel is the highlight of our week and we love to share it with those who come to visit us. What a wonderful community of believers that share the light and love of Christ. Thank you for the opportunity to give back in the capacity of serving in whatever way I can.

Don McDonald:

I was raised in a Methodist church, in Connecticut, led by esteemed pastor, Earle Sanford. My wife Joan and I (and our 4 children) first visited the Chapel by the Sea in the 1990's and it has been a very special place for me ever since.

After graduating Princeton in 1984, I started a finance career on Wall Street, then spent over 10 years as President of Conning Asset Management in Hartford, CT, then went on to spend another 10 plus years as Chairman and CEO of Prime Advisors in Redmond, WA.

Joan and I moved full time to Sanibel 5 years ago. Our 4 children live in Frisco TX, Charlotte NC, Monterey CA and Tacoma WA. On the islands, I am honored to have served as President of San Cap Rotary, past President and current Board member of the Sanibel Community House, Trustee of the City of Sanibel Police Pension Fund and past president of the Heron's Landing HOA Board.

It is my honor to serve on the Chapel's Board and I look forward to getting to know everyone better and making a contribution to our Chapel community.