



**Captiva Chapel by the Sea**

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

**APRIL 14, 2024 AT NOON**

**IN THE CHAPEL – listen for the bell**

Chapel Board Pastor's Report  
April 14, 2024

"Blessed Are the Flexible"

On my list of things I wished Jesus would have said is my version of the "ninth beatitude," "Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape." I know Scripture warns us about adding to or taking away from the Word of God, so I'm making that statement with my tongue firmly planted in my cheek, but I think you get the point. People who can go with the flow usually come out OK.

Every first year in every church I served in my forty-three years of pastoral ministry required some measure of flexibility. The Captiva Chapel by the Sea has been no exception. Like every community of faith, you have your way of doing church; and like every pastor you've ever had, I have my background of doing church. And it's always a good thing when we meet somewhere along the way, which I think we've done exceedingly well in this first year.

One adjustment on our part has been life on the island. You understand that when you call a pastor and wife as they've just retired, you're asking them to put their life on hold for three years, which quite honestly was something Judy and I struggled with coming to Captiva. But you have made this first year so enjoyable for us as you've reached out to us in so many ways, you've included us in so many things, and you've made sure that we had everything we needed to enjoy our first year here. And we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you've done to help us settle in.

Another adjustment has been our worship together. For your part, you've had to adjust to my voice, and for my part, I've had to adjust to your ears. And I thank you for your patience and your encouragement. I've also had to learn how to preach to a "divided congregation" spatially, not so much theologically or ideologically. That window is harder than you might think, particularly when on most Sundays there are more folks sitting outside than inside. And again, I thank you for understanding "the dance" I have to do on most Sundays. Lastly, I've learned how to officiate aspects of worship outside of my liturgical tradition. I've worn a robe, which I did only on a handful of occasions in my previous churches. I've performed infant baptisms, which has drawn no small amount of teasing from my Baptist colleagues. I've imposed ashes, which I had never done prior to coming to the Chapel. And I've responded to a request to provide Holy Water. YouTube has been my instructor in so many of these areas and I thank you for overlooking both my awkwardness and my inexperience. But these new experiences have most definitely have enriched my theology of worship and I believe I am a better pastor and worshiper for them.

I don't mean to give you the impression that serving this Chapel has been a difficult thing. It hasn't been. There is something truly unique about this community of faith, which will take me another two years to put my finger on. Part of it is the reputation you and previous ministers have established for this Chapel over the years. Part of it is the charm of the setting, which you are careful to preserve. But most of it has to do with the seriousness with which you take "the work of the ministry," as Paul calls it in his letter to the Ephesians (Eph. 4:11-13), but also your flexibility – with me and with one another.

Suffice it to say that Judy and I are just happy to be a part of the team. And we look forward to the remaining two Sundays of this year and the remaining two years that are to come, the Lord willing, as together we work to be more of a place where God lives and people who come our way experience the blessedness that comes from it.

## President's Report

2024

The 2023-24 season was the first for our new pastor Doug Dortch and his wife Judy to join our chapel family. Doug's encouraging and inspiring messages have received positive feedback, and we are so blessed to have them here for three years.

This season was highlighted by the return to a more normal schedule. Christmas and Easter services brought in large crowds and our January 21<sup>st</sup> Missions Sunday was very well attended.

In January a strategic planning meeting was held which generated numerous short- and long-term action items, many of which have been or are being implemented.

Ellen Sloan has been elected as the new Chapel President, and George Campean will serve as the new Treasurer. Nathalie Pyle, Melissa Calkin, Valerie Tutor will continue respectively as Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary.

Colin Black, Ed Anderson, and Rita Ewell have been elected to the Board as the terms of Susen Berg, Mike Bennett and I have expired. It has been a great honor to serve on the Chapel Board for 6 years and we thank Susen and Mike for their valuable service to the Chapel.

Thanks to Chip and Nancy Roach for their dedication to ensuring the parsonage was clean and well stocked for Judy and Doug's arrival. Thanks to Susen Berg for organizing greeters, Nancy Roach for hospitality, and Pat Boris for her ongoing devotion to prayer and sharing the needs of our community. Thanks to Chip for leading our ever-improving Communication Committee and Kathy for her enthusiasm heading our all-important Mission's Committee and Nathalie for leading our Nominating and Cemetery Committees.

Thanks to our Music Director, Lynne Dugan, and all our volunteer song leaders. We thank Dennis Berry and Ellen Sloan for the time-consuming task of reviewing and updating the Chapels Policies and Procedures. The board is truly appreciative of the many who volunteer, serve on committees, and support the Chapel by the Sea.

Respectively submitted,

Jake Miller



Captiva Chapel by the Sea  
Treasurer's Report  
April 2024

Less than two years removed from the damage caused by Hurricane Ian, the Chapel financial position remains strong. Hurricane repairs and replacements have been completed and paid with the exception of additional landscape to provide added shade for outdoor worshippers.

The Chapel has investment reserves in slight excess of \$1,500,000. We continue to reserve \$500,000 of this for flood self insurance for the Chapel and cemetery. The Finance Committee adjusted the investment ratio to roughly one third fixed income and two thirds equity to better balance preservation with growth.

All of the Chapel insurance policies have been renewed for the current year.

In addition to investment reserves, the Chapel has in excess of \$65000 in bank accounts. We have committed and distributed about half of approved \$100,000 funding for this season to Missions partners with the balance to be committed and distributed this month.

We have begun the transition process to a new Treasurer and this will continue through the summer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Bennett

**Captiva Chapel by the Sea  
Missions and Outreach Committee 2024 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, Ellen Sloan, Blair Wyatt, Joan Gruver and Marilyn Lewis**

**A Food Drive hosted by the Missions Committee was held on Sunday, November 19, 2023. Over 50 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 Board allocated \$50,000.00 for current agencies 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:**

<b>ECHO</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>
<b>Community Housing and Resources</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
<b>The Heights Center</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
<b>The Dubin Center</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>FISH of SanCap</b>	<b>\$6,600.00</b>
<b>South Fort Myers Food Pantry</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>
<b>The Quality Life Center</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>
<b>Community Cooperative</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>
<b>El Hogar</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
<b>Trailways</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>American Legion Post 123</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>

**Scholarships:**

<b>Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>The Quality Life Center</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>The Heights Center</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>FISH of SanCap</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>

**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 school programs.**

**On Sunday, January 21, 2024 the Missions Committee hosted a much-awaited Missions Sunday. Due to two years of COVID and Hurricane Ian we were unable to have representatives from our current agencies visit the Chapel. This year all nine local agencies set up a table and shared information about their non-profit. Representatives were in attendance to answer questions. A picnic lunch followed the service.**

## **Missions and Outreach Committee 2024 Annual Meeting Report**

**In March 2024 the Chapel Board chose to distribute an additional \$50,000.00 as a one-time donation to support non-profit agencies in the local area.**

### **Children's Education Center of the Islands**

for the purchase of classroom tables	<b>\$3,400.00</b>
<b>Community Housing and Resources</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
<b>Dubin Center</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>South Fort Myers Food Pantry.</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>Community Cooperative</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>ECHO</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>

**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 being at the table. The profits from these purchases were donated to the Missions agencies.**

**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 2023-24**

Committee Members:

Jake Miller, George Campean, Mark Calkin, Bob Johnson

During the summer Bob Johnson and his crew completed final hurricane grounds projects at the Chapel and the cemetery. This included removing downed vegetation, stumps and trees, planting of native trees and shrubs, filling/grading the parking lot, driveway, and the entire north side of the Chapel. This work created about 20 new parking spaces for those that can come early and stay late for services.

The loss of trees from Ian required a new layout and support structure for the cables used to hang our Christmas lights. Several new support posts were installed, and new plastic-coated cables were purchased. Many thanks to Dick Pyle for organizing Christmas light hanging and removal and providing lunch. Also Mike Boris and Bob Johnson for trouble shooting and ensuring all lights were working.

A subcommittee was formed to investigate a way to create increased shade for those sitting outside during the services. Numerous options were reviewed and discussed with the board. The final decision was made to use tree(s) to preserve the historic look and feel of the Chapel.

Normal landscaping, tree trimming, and maintenance was completed, including several repairs at the parsonage.

Special thanks for the ongoing assistance of Bob Dugan (Sound Guy!), including new outside speakers which were installed early in the season. Outside sound quality is now better than ever.

Respectfully submitted,

Jake Miller



## **Chapel by the Sea Prayer Chain Report 2023/2024**

Provided by Pat Boris

Our Chapel prayer chain has responded to many needs this past year. Every year has its issues, and this one has been special for the aftermath of hurricane Ian and the stresses that it put on everyone.

Oddly, no one asked for prayer for themselves because of Ian. Not one. There were many requests for other people's needs, some storm related, but mostly for health reasons. Of the 37 people who regularly pray for requests, it's notable that the consistent concerns are for others.

So today I'm asking us to pray for the needs of each other that are so hard for us to articulate for ourselves

For you who don't know much about how this prayer chain works, requests come through many sources, from others in the community, some to my email, many forwarded from Chapel goers. They are very confidential, naming people only when they say it's okay. Details are usually kept minimal because God already knows the details.

We support each other with God's desire to be with us in all things. We acknowledge God's presence even in very hard times. Our Bible verse is from Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

If you feel that your prayer life would be deepened by praying with us for needs near and far, join us. My email is [nanapat123@gmail.com](mailto:nanapat123@gmail.com)

Always Love





## Captiva Chapel by the Sea

### Annual Meeting of the Chapel April 14, 2024

**Communications Committee** – chair Chip Roach,  
members – Ken Jacobs, Valerie Tutor, Doug Dortch  
and consultant, Angela Chanthavong.

Primary way of communicating has broadened over the last five years of challenges to include the traditional news stories, emails, posters and printed flyers to **embracing technology** to reach a much wider audience for worship and community building.

Web site was our only technology until the pandemic, when we invented TV video plus Facebook and two email groups: Insiders Friendly Faces list (about 150 people) and Big List (about 1,500 addresses)

Now we use Facebook many times per year - 2,500 “followers” and the web site weekly during season to present a “story” or blog about our services and special events – highlighting our people.

Weekly livestream of the services are made available later on Sunday on the Captiva Chapel’s own YouTube tv collection reached by going to [www.captivachapel.com](http://www.captivachapel.com)

If you want to join our Friendly Faces list please email us at [captivachapel@gmail.com](mailto:captivachapel@gmail.com)

To volunteer for our committee (meets 3 times per season)

Questions try [chiproach@aol.com](mailto:chiproach@aol.com)



Captiva Chapel by the Sea

## **Captiva Chapel Annual Report April 2024**

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Committee members:

Nathalie Pyle, chair; Ken Jacobs; Missy Calkin; Susie Berg; Jake Miller

### **2024-2025 Executive Committee**

President – Ellen Sloan

Vice President – Nathalie Pyle

Treasurer – George Campean

Recording Secretary- Melissa Calkin

Corresponding Secretary - Valerie Tutor

### **New Directors:**

Ed Anderson, Colin Black, Rita Ewell

### **Class of 2024 - 25**

6<sup>th</sup> Valerie Tutor

6<sup>th</sup> Stephanie Bissett

3<sup>rd</sup> Dennis Berry

3<sup>rd</sup> Kathy Knoblauch

### **Class of 2025-26**

2<sup>nd</sup> Marilyn Lewis

2<sup>nd</sup> Karen Cox

2<sup>nd</sup> Nathalie Pyle

5<sup>th</sup> Missy Calkin

5<sup>th</sup> George Campean

5<sup>th</sup> Ken Jacobs

### **Class of 2023 - 24**

1<sup>st</sup> Ed Anderson

1<sup>st</sup> Colin Black

1<sup>st</sup> Rita Ewell

4<sup>th</sup> Doug Ryckman

4<sup>th</sup> Ellen Sloan