
WOODLAWN WINDOW

SEPTEMBER 2026

Woodlawn Presbyterian Church
2612 12th Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704



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Dear Friends,

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus says:

*there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed;
nor is anything secret, except to come to light. (Mark 4:22)*

I am astonished to see how many writings have recently been found that the world believed were lost forever. We have found new texts on mathematics by Archimedes (3rd century BC), on Greek philosophy by Philodemus (1st century BC), and with sermons by St. Augustine (5th century).

A Dead Sea Scrolls manuscript even revealed sentences that had been lost from 1 Samuel 10:27 in the Old Testament that are now printed in several Bible versions, including the nrsv.

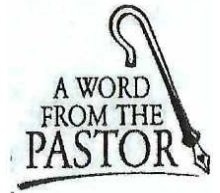
Writings have disappeared for many reasons—some so long ago that no one knows what happened and scholars doubt that they will ever be found. Several such books are referenced in the Bible. For example, 1 Kings speaks of details of King Jeroboam's reign that are written "in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel" (14:19). But those annals have been lost. Similarly, Paul mentions letters he wrote that are not preserved in the New Testament (see, e.g., 1 Corinthians 5:9).

Nonetheless, sometimes lost books are found. One of the oldest, most complete, and most authoritative Bible manuscripts was discovered by an exceptional case of serendipity in 1844 when a German scholar, Constantin von Tischendorf, visited St. Catherine's monastery at

Mount Sinai—"the world's oldest continuously inhabited Christian Monastery"—where he saw and recognized the significance of a papyrus manuscript. His romanticized (but doubtful) version of the discovery says he found papyrus pages in a trash basket just before they were to be burned. The right person at the right place at the right time recovered an unrecognized Bible manuscript of inestimable value.

Other books once appeared to have been lost even though they had not disappeared. That sounds strange, but it is really simple. Animal skin (called velum) has long been an exceptionally durable writing material, but so costly that the original text was sometimes scraped away so the skin could be reused. After a page was scraped, it would be rotated 90° and something new would be written on the recycled velum. The resulting document is called a palimpsest (from an ancient Greek term meaning "scrape again"). Even after the scraping, it is often possible to make out parts of the original document. Modern specialists can use such tools as innovative lighting techniques to make the second layer of ink seem to disappear and to enhance and recover more of the original text. A particularly important example (called codex Ephreimi Rescriptus) contains portions of the Old and New Testaments. It was written in the 5th century but was "lost" when it was overwritten some seven hundred years later. It was one of the earlier palimpsests to be "found" again.

The latest discoveries may be the most exceptional. New techniques have made history by recovering text in papyrus scrolls that were carbonized when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79



AD. The cataclysm seared them in a 750° blast of pyroclastic fury that pummeled the scrolls, mummified them, buried them in ash, and sealed them in pumice. When the scrolls were recovered, they were as vulnerable as dandelion fluff (imagine trying to keep dandelion fluff intact while probing beneath its surface). Three years ago scholars succeeded in using high-tech x-ray processes combined with artificial intelligence to decipher a few hidden words locked inside the carbonized scrolls. A year later they could read fragmentary passages. Today they can digitally “unroll” scrolls and read significant parts of the hidden text. Those Vesuvius scrolls are largely philosophical texts, but the same process can be used to read ancient Bible scrolls which, likewise, are too fragile to unroll.

Every generation of discovery makes the Bible text and Bible translations more accurate.

Of course the best way for you and me to assure that “there is nothing hidden” in scripture does not require the rediscovery of old manuscripts or modern technology or artificial intelligence. It only requires us to pull our Bibles off the shelf and prayerfully read and study them, just as the faithful people of God have been doing for hundreds of generations and for thousands of years.

Paul John

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING NEWS

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us." Ps. 67:1

September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness month. From the Mayo Clinic. Ovarian cancer is a challenging cancer to detect and treat. Research is on going. Newer, better treatments are improving survival. While most women are over 60, ovarian cancer can affect younger women as well. It is estimated over 22,000 women are affected yearly. Ovarian cancer is rare and a challenge to detect,



but newer, better treatments are improving survival. There are several different types.

Although ovarian cancer responds well to treatment in its early stages, it is usually discovered in its later stages when it is more difficult to treat. Because of this, long-term survival rate can be low and chance of recurrence is high. As researchers learn more about ovarian cancer and early detection, new and improved treatments are increasing survival.

There are several approaches to therapy and in what order treatment is given. Two of the newer treatments include targeted drug therapies and immunotherapy. Although tests and procedures can diagnose ovarian cancer, there is no standard screening. Research continues to understand how genetic testing can guide screening.

To avoid overlooking ovarian cancer in its early stages, it is stressed the importance of a woman being attuned to her body for new or recurring symptoms. Some of the symptoms include bloating, abdominal pain, urgency of urination, early fullness after a meal, weight loss, and fatigue. Be aware how you normally feel and when changes occur. Talk with your primary physician or gynecologist about your concerns.

Wendy Siedlecki RN
Faith Community Nurse

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GOD'S SEPTEMBER CHILDREN

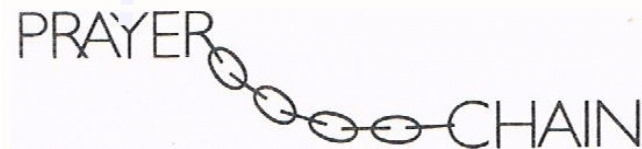
4 Lisa Duff
4 Kris Ragsdale
5 David Adams
16 Kay Meece
27 Mari Blaquiere
29 Bob Malloy



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

ZULEMA GROVES
MARY NUTTING
BARBARA ANN MUNROE



As soon as we receive the prayer request we will be praying for your need. When you have a request please contact the church office or Pastor John at 727-822-4477.

The request may be confidential and not detailed and you will know that your church family is lifting your concern up to our Heavenly Father.



Please continue to pray for our first responders and members of the military. **They are the ones we count on to keep us safe and respond to events**

over which we have no control.

GOD IS GOOD!

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Administration Committee continues to do whatever is necessary to keep the church property in good condition. Thanks to Mike Baker who oversees the work that goes on week after week. The church property is large and we have, over the years, many groups that meet in our facilities. That in fact is the reason we keep Hutchinson Hall in good repair.



If you don't look at the calendar each month you may not have noticed that almost every day of every month you will see at least one meeting or activity every day. This use keeps the property in constant need of repair. We are happy to share our property with AA groups meeting every weekday and consider it part of our outreach. We also have Wednesday night Yoga and a morning Book Club.

All of these groups meet without cost to them, allowing them to sustain their programs and add to the lives of those who attend.

Mary Lee King
Member of Administration Committee

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A WRITER'S THOUGHTS

by Dan Schramek

I want to thank my readers for their kind comments and encouragement for the things I write about. It all started over 3 1/2 years ago when our editor of the church newsletter asked me to write an article. What do you want me to write about? Her answer was "Anything you want", which opened the door to a multitude of subjects, which you all have enjoyed month after month and year after year.



I've been writing articles and stories most of my adult life, about life and the things occurring in my life from my college days at USF, my career as a medical technologist, as an entrepreneur and my life in retirement. Amy and I teamed up and started our law clinic business for more than nine years, introducing us to the Florida Bar's legal system.

When it was all done, I wrote a book "Injustice for All", a memoir about my experience with the Florida bar. The cover was David fighting Goliath, apropos for what Amy and I went through. I entered the book in a contest with Simon & Schuster publishing company, no win, but very controversial.

INJUSTICE FOR ALL

a Memoir

"I felt like David going into the battlefield against Goliath"

by Dan Schramek

Why do I write? Simply, to tell a story of my thoughts, dreams, desires to impact my readers, to stimulate, educate, create a spark or make a change in someone's life. If I can do this in my writings then I've done my job. End of paragraph.

In 2005 I started a blog online writing about current events of political issues, getting rid of your cable, in other words cut the cable, and many other topics. I also started an ongoing book parentheses, marriage making it work parentheses, with 58 years of being together. Amy and I have some experience on making it work. I may have to break it up into two volumes, the early years, and in retirement. I could go on and on about my writings. That's another story and another article. Amy and I have been blessed.

May God bless all of you! Until next time!

CHOIR DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

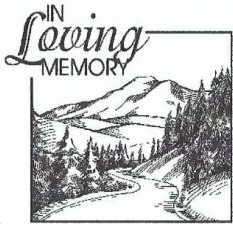


THE CHOIR IS
PRACTICING ON
THURSDAYS AT 6:00 PM AND ON
SUNDAYS AT 9:20 AM. IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHOIR,
PLEASE TALK TO KRIS RAGSDALE.

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PLEASE TALK TO KRIS RAGSDALE.

WOODLAWN WINDOW
DEADLINE FOR ALL ARTICLES
ARE DUE BY 4 PM

FOR OCTOBER
SEPTEMBER 21ST
PLEASE SEND YOUR ITEM TO:
mlk140142 @gmail.com



In Memoriam

Freda Slone Melody

July 24, 1930 - August 8, 2026

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

A memorial service for long time member, Freda Melody, was held in the sanctuary on August 8, 2026 with friends and three generations of family celebrating her life. She was a member of Woodlawn since 1945, and was a former Deacon and later ordained as an Elder in 2005. Always active in the life of the church she taught children's Sunday School, helped with Vacation Bible School, served on the Fellowship Committee, and served meals to the homeless in the community.

She married Walter (Corky) Melody, Sr. in 1951 and they were married 40 years until his passing in 1992. Throughout the years, her greatest pleasure was found in caring for her family and spending time participating in their activities.

Many friends were touched by her kindness and interest in their lives. She added much to the life of Woodlawn Presbyterian Church. We were blessed by her presence.

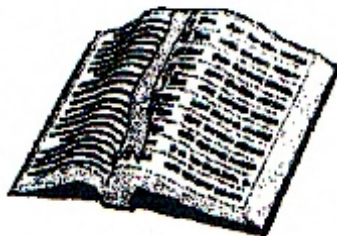
"... and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

BOOK CLUB

Wed. Sept. 16th

10:00 AM

CLASSROOM B



All are welcome. Expand your horizons. We take turns picking the monthly book.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee, Mari Blaquiere, gave a report to the congregation about the "Pig Money" that was collected. It amounted to \$2078.00 and purchased two cows and a number of other animals, and supplies for two gardens.

To the congregation: Thank you for your support of this important effort.

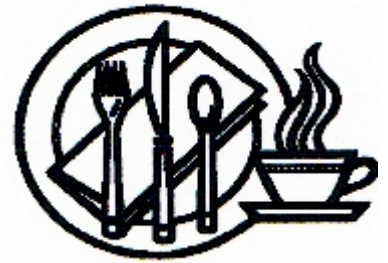
Mari Blaquiere, Missions Committee



LUNCH BUNCH

Thurs. Sept. 17th
11:30 AM

Red Mesa
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FREE BINGO

3RD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

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DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM - GAMES AT
6:30 PM

\$50 IN PRIZES - SNACKS -
50-50 DRAWING -

BRING A FRIEND

WOODLAWN WINDOW DUE DATES FOR 2026

<u>FOR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
OCTOBER	SEPT	21
NOVEMBER	OCT.	19
DECEMBER	NOV.	23
JANUARY	DEC.	21

**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED
THE CHURCH IN
YOUR ESTATE PLANNING?**

BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

(1 Corinthians)

1. 12
2. 13
3. 14:1-19
4. 14:20-40
5. 15:1-34
6. 15:35-58
7. 16

2 Corinthians

8. 1
9. 2
10. 3
11. 4
12. 5
13. 6
14. 7
15. 8
16. 9
17. 10
18. 11:1-15
19. 11:16-33
20. 12
21. 13

Galatians

22. 1
23. 2
24. 3
25. 4
26. 5
27. 6

Ephesians

28. 1
29. 2
30. 3

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM	2 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON YOGA	3 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON CHOIR PRACTICE AA MEETING	4 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON NA MEETING 8 PM	5 OFFICE CLOSED
6 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	7 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON WOMEN'S AA MEETING 8 PM	8 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING 8 PM	9 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING 8 PM AA MEETING YOGA	10 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING 8 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	11 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON NA MEETING 8 PM	12 OFFICE CLOSED
13 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	14 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON WOMEN'S AA MEETING 8 PM	15 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING 8 PM	16 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON BOOK CLUB YOGA AA MEETING 8 PM	17 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON CHOIR PRACTICE LUNCH BUNCH AA MEETING 8 PM	18 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON BINGO 6:00 PM NA MEETING 8 PM	19 OFFICE CLOSED
20 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	21 OFFICE OPEN WW DEADLINE AA MEETING WOMEN'S 8PM	22 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING 8 PM	23 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON YOGA AA MEETING 8PM	24 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON CHOIR PRACTICE AA MEETING 8 PM	25 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON NA MEETING AA MEETING	26 OFFICE CLOSED
27 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	28 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON WOMAN'S AA MEETING	29 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM	30 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON YOGA AA MEETING 8 PM			

THE WOODLAWN WINDOW

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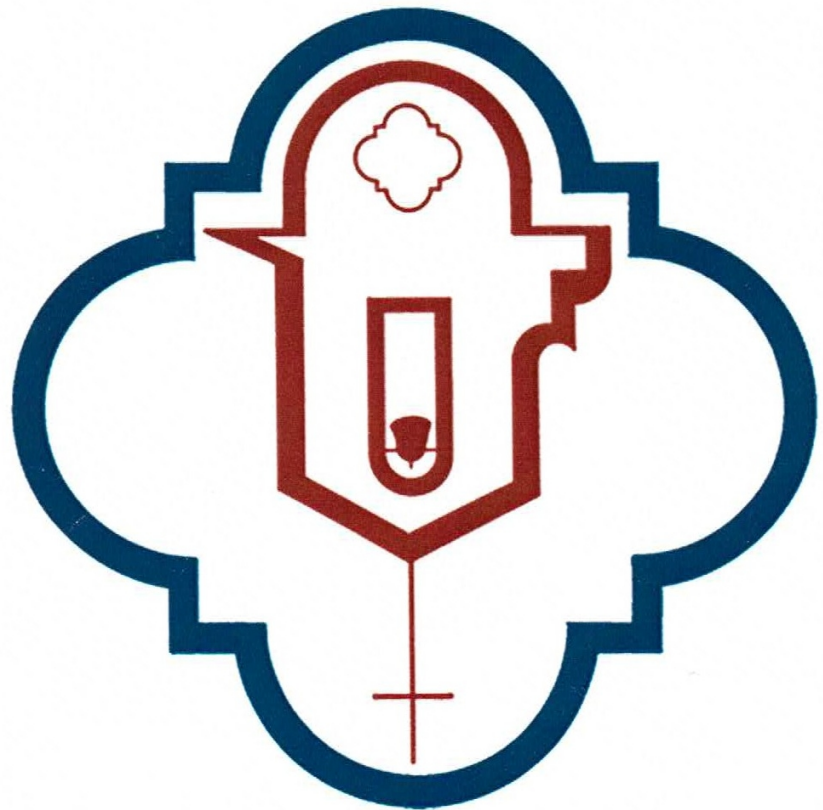
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Bringing people to Jesus Christ, bringing Jesus Christ to people.