

CHRIST CHURCH AMONG THE OAKS

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

November 19, 2023 9:00 a.m.

A second worship site for Christ Church Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Worship: Sundays 9:00 a.m. Vicar: The Rev. Sandy Tull
NSIA Community Center, 120 Meadow Avenue in Vilano Beach
ccpvb.org info@ccpvb.org

Welcome Guests and Newcomers

Welcome to Christ Church Among the Oaks. This is a multi-denominational congregation, made up of friends, neighbors, people who are new to our area, and those seeking something a little different and a little more meaningful in their spiritual and worship life. We feel called to serve our local community and as you will hear today, we focus on six local outreach agencies that do the hard work that Jesus taught us. A short description of each Outreach Partner is in the back of this bulletin. We welcome the opportunity to meet you and answer any questions you may have about our church and our work in the community! We are incredibly grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra and thank their leadership for the freedom to be a unique, mission-focused worship community.

Servant Board: Paula Allmen, Mike Cleary, Steve Harrison, Claire Heusinger, Deborah Pearsall, Stan Sundermeyer, and Jenny Weeks, warden.

Presider: The Rev. Sandy Tull

Musician: Boril Ivanov

Vocalist: Claire Heusinger

We encourage our guests to fill out a welcome card today!

We are glad you are with us and look forward to worshipping with you often.

Prelude *Medley*

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn *Ye Servants of God*

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad his wonderful name:
The name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still he is nigh, his presence we have;
The great congregation his triumph shall sing;
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

‘Salvation to God who sits on the throne!’
Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son:
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give him his right,
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.

Opening Sentences

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Kyrie

Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have
Ky - ri - e E - lei - son, Chri - ste E - lei - son, Ky - ri - e E -
Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have
6
mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.
lei - son, Chri - ste E - lei - son.
mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Lector A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah

1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 100

Lector Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *

People serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *

**he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; *

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; *

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Second Reading

Lector A reading from Paul's first Letter to the Thessalonians

5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

The Gospel

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

25:14-30

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily The Rev. Sandy Tull

Meditative Interlude

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Leader Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Prayers for the Hurting World

All God of peace and justice, we pray this day for all peoples around the world who are suffering from war, famine, floods, fires, and from other devastations. We pray for all those who fear tomorrow: that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power: that they may have wisdom and discernment to aid people in distress and that they be guided by compassion in their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children who are at risk and live in fear: that you would hold and protect them. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Birthday Prayer

Watch over your child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* falls; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

*To make an offering online visit ccpvb.org/give
or use the QR code at the back of the bulletin. Thank you for your support.*

Offertory

The Presentation

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant continues

The Gifts of God for the people of God. Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on the journey of life and faith, you are welcome at God's table to receive the Bread and Wine made Holy. (*Enriching our Worship, Form 1*)

Distribution of Communion

All baptized persons, including children, are invited to receive Communion.

Communion Music *Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son (*Repeat*)
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us" (*Repeat*)

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Holy, gracious, God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love; we have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence; we accept you into our bodies, into our lives. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer. And we give you thanks. Amen.**

Sending the Eucharistic Visitors

When present, Eucharistic Visitors are commissioned to carry the Consecrated Gifts of Holy Communion to those who are unable, due to illness or impairment, to join us for Sunday services.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood

People **We who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

Dismissal

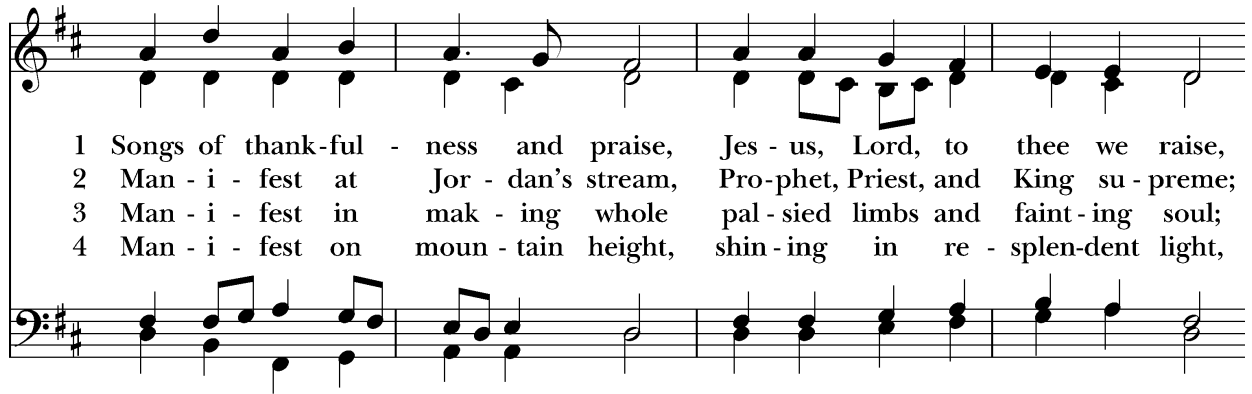
Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia, let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.**

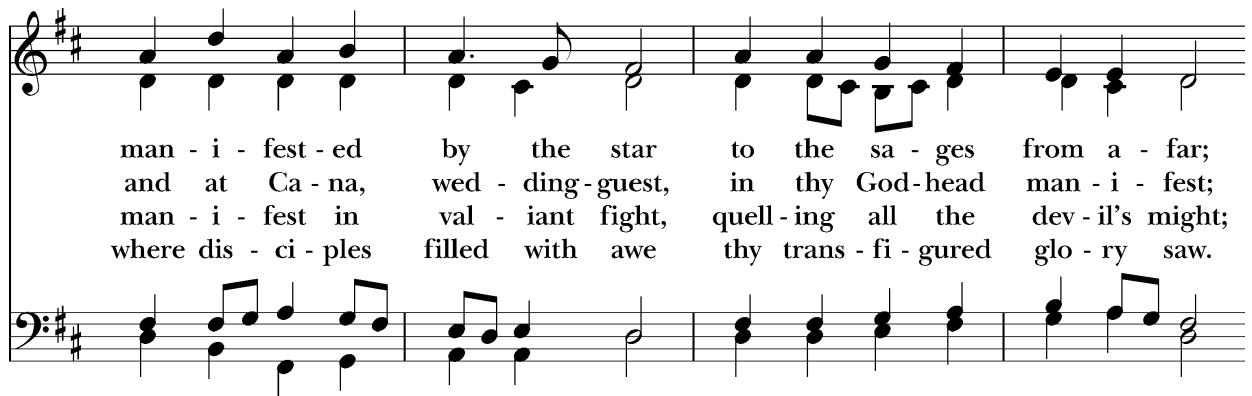
Postlude *Medley*

Closing Hymn

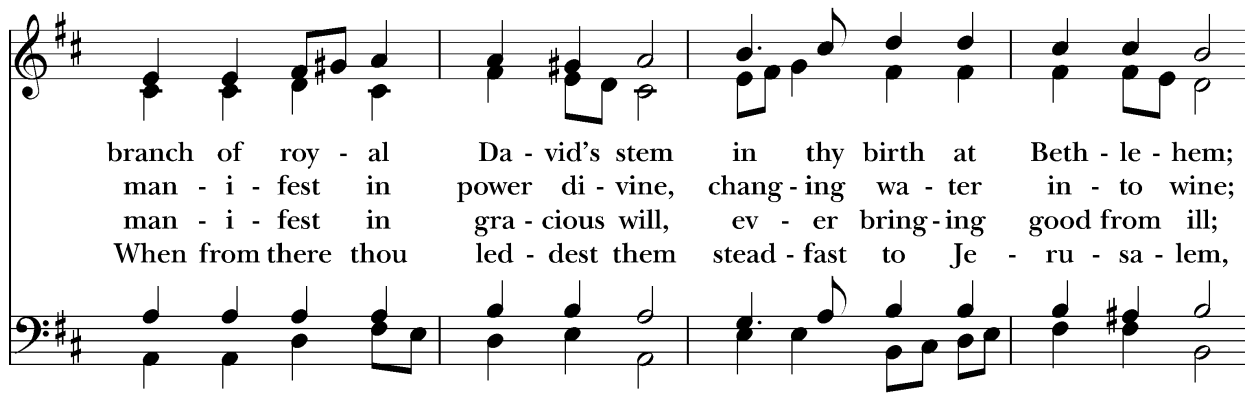
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;
and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

Announcements

Upcoming events to support our Outreach Partners

St Francis House Festival of Trees

December 4 -7, Lightner Museum - 74 King Street St. Augustine

Stroll through a beautiful display of decorated trees and wreaths, all available for purchase in a silent auction format. All funds raised help homeless youth, families, and men and women in our community.

Save the Date - Christmas Brunch

Our Christmas Brunch will be on **Sunday, December 10**, immediately after the Worship Service. Look for the sign-up sheet over the next few Sundays and plan to join your church family for a celebration of the birth of Christ!

The Order of the Daughters of the King®

The Order of Daughters of the King is an international group of women, who, after prayer and study have made a life-long commitment to prayer, study, and evangelism. If you are interested in joining the DOK chapter at The Oaks, please see Mother Sandy, Deborah Pearsall, or Cyndi King. Beginning in January 2024, a study session will be held for several Sundays following worship (schedule TBD.) After the study sessions are completed, we will present each candidate to the congregation for commissioning during a Sunday worship service, at which time a Daughter's cross will be presented to each candidate.

The Sacrament of Baptism

If you or someone you know is interested in the Sacrament of Baptism, The Rite of Baptism will be held at Christ Church Among the Oaks on January 7, 2024 as we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. Please see Mother Sandy for further details.

Offerings Online

Forgot to bring cash or write a check??? We now have a QR code in the bulletin for safe, quick, and easy online giving. You will be automatically directed to the Christ Church giving page where you can enter your information one time and it will be saved for future giving.



Blue Christmas, Wednesday, December 13, 5:00 P.M.

The Blue Christmas Service, a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the “blue” feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. We are experiencing the shortest day and the longest night of the year. Certain memorable phrases come to mind at this time: “long dark night of the soul,” “the winter of our discontent,” in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming. For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult. For others, Christmas Eve, or New Years Eve, or the beginning of another lonely New Year. In this service, we’ll share in some singing appropriate to the Christmas season, recognizing that this is not a season of joy for everyone. We will invite you to reflect on the pain, the loneliness, and the sadness you may feel and offer it all to our great sign of hope, the Christ Child. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.

Our Outreach Liaisons

Learn to Read

Improving literacy for over 200 individuals each year at no cost to the student. Improved reading skills lead to better paying jobs, higher levels of education, healthier lifestyles, and a better overall community.

Elaine Reagan ereaganpvb@gmail.com

Mary Jane Dillon dillonmj43@gmail.com.

St. Gerard's Campus

A non-profit maternity home and Christian high school for pregnant teenagers, promoting empowerment through education and strong Christian values.

Paula Allmen pallmen@icloud.com

Stan Sundermeyer srsundermeyer@msn.com

St. Francis Housing Crisis Center / Port in the Storm

Engaging those experiencing homelessness to achieve stability, self-sufficiency, and a viable plan for their future by providing a safe, stable environment, access to essential services, and supportive connections.

Al Wallander alwallander@outlook.com

Annette Wallander annettewallander2@gmail.com

Jack Tull tulljs@msn.com

Council on Aging

Provides the opportunity for every person in St. Johns County to enjoy wellness, longevity and quality of life choices within a strong, healthy community.

Sharon Carlson xtraice0922@gmail.com

Pie in the Sky Community Alliance of St. John County

Pie in the Sky is a grassroots, volunteer-based organization providing hope by serving with dignity and respect to alleviate hunger and social isolation through the home delivery of healthy fresh produce to low-income senior citizens.

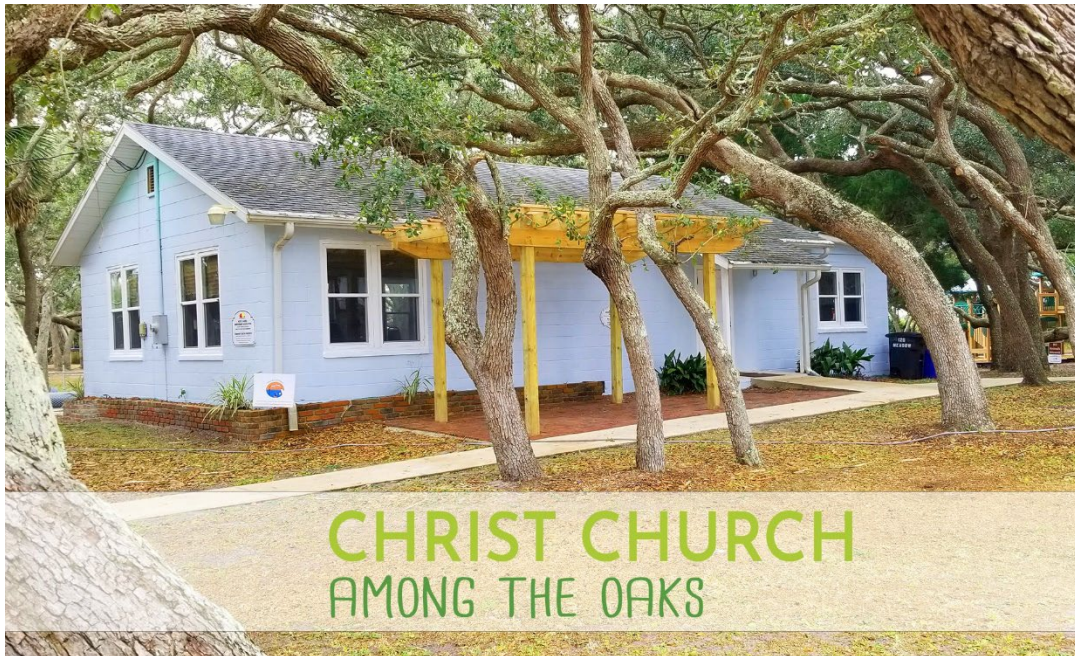
Loretta McMaster lwmcmaster@sbcglobal.net

Steve Harrison jags1995@live.com

South Woods Elementary

Creating a secure community that will instill in all students a desire for academic excellence, fostering the development of caring, productive citizens.

Margo Cleary margcleary@aol.com



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