



RENEW ME IN THE LIKENESS OF YOUR MERCY

Christ Church Among the Oaks

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

The Second Sunday in Lent

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

March 16, 2025

9:00 a.m.

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

Opening Hymn

How Firm a Foundation

Vs. 1 – 3

Descant

5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,

2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!

3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,

4 "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,

5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,

5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!

2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;

3 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;

4 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;

5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

5 soul, _____ to shake, no,

1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 3 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 5 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,

5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 3 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 4 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."



INTO THE WILDERNESS

By Pedro Figueroa

My wilderness experience began with a divorce that left me feeling empty; no home, car, furniture, family, except my teenage son, and I didn't know how to deal with him. He was left shattered to pieces, emotionally and spiritually. I gave it all up to start anew with my son. So, I found myself struggling to cope with it all, alone. Without any adult interaction or support.

Along came my tempter. A man that was not concerned with my family status, or failure thereof. He made me feel valued, important. He always spoke words of affirmation, made me feel confident again! Then during Advent, he asked me for money to buy his wife a set of diamond earrings that were on sale, and the sale would end before his pay day. He just needed the money to take advantage of the sale and he would pay me back on his pay day. So, I did, I drew money from the savings account. Leaving me virtually with no money until he paid me back. That was the last I saw of him.

I was furious! I had been conned! I was hurt, angry, wanting revenge or at a minimum, justice! So, I began to pray and read the Holy Scriptures. I was led by the Holy Spirit to read Luke 6:27-38. Read it for yourself. It was a hard scripture to read at that time, because it did not give me what I wanted to hear concerning this matter and this con-artist.

Our Heavenly Father was asking me to do the following: to love him, bless him, pray for him, have mercy for him, forgive him and his debt, don't ask for the money, don't judge or condemn him! He also reminded me all of the love, blessings, intercessions, mercies, forgiveness, paid debt with no judgement or condemnation He has for me! So, I put into action with what only faith in Christ can do, and obeyed.

Within a week the money I lent was restored and multiplied with no effort from me or my debtor. Not only was I restored financially, but Our Father also gave the eternal treasures of love, forgiveness, mercy, peace and joy! Till this day I pray for that man, that Our Savior may reveal Himself and His Love to him.

Go in Peace ~ Pedro

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: 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

Today we welcome Lenora Gregory. Lenora is the Episcopal Relief and Development Diocesan Ministry partner for the Diocese of FL. The diocese has been active in raising funds for the victims of the 2024 hurricanes from FL to NC. In addition they have been on the front line with the fires in southern California. She has come to share all the ways Episcopal Relief and Development is working in the world to alleviate hunger, building sustainable communities, and bring relief to those in need.

Opening Hymn *How Firm a Foundation* Vs. 1 – 3

Opening Sentences

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures forever.

The Decalogue: Contemporary

Celebrant Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

The Confession

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

Silence may be kept.

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.**

The Celebrant stands and says

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.**

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.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Lector A reading from the Book of Genesis

15:1-12, 17-18

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 27

Lector The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? *

People **the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?**

When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *

it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

Though an army should encamp against me, *

yet my heart shall not be afraid;

And though war should rise up against me, *

yet will I put my trust in him.

One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; *

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;

To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *

and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *

he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling

and set me high upon a rock.

Even now he lifts up my head *

above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; *

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *

have mercy on me and answer me.

You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *

Your face, Lord, will I seek.

Hide not your face from me, *

nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

You have been my helper; cast me not away; *

do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me, *

the Lord will sustain me.

Show me your way, O Lord; *

lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *

**for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.**

What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord *

in the land of the living!

O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *

wait patiently for the Lord.

Second Reading

Lector A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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 Luke 13:31-35

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

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

Homily The Rev. Sandy Tull

Meditative Interlude

The Prayers of the People, Form IV

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide and strengthen all our ministry partners: St. Gerard's Campus, St. Francis House and Port in the Storm, South Woods Elementary, Learn to Read, Pie in the Sky, and Council on Aging, that with patience and understanding, they may love and care for all people.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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.**

Please stand.

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 C

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.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you forever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**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.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of our Mothers, Sarah, Rebecca and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Distribution of Communion

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

Communion Music *How Great Thou Art*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the works Thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art! (*Repeat*)

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze. *Refrain*

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin. *Refrain*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!" *Refrain*

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

How Firm a Foundation

Vs. 4 & 5

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Medley

Announcements

St. Gerard Campus announces their Caribbean Gala 2025 on March 27, 6:00 PM at the Tringali Barn. Visit stgerardcampus.org to learn more and purchase tickets. Casual tropical attire is preferred for this evening of great food, live music, and support for serving young mothers and their babies.

North Shores Improvement Association (NSIA) is excited to announce the Annual Vilano Bridge 5K & 10K Run, taking place on March 29th at 8:00 AM. The chip-timed 5K & 10K courses offer a unique experience, taking you across the scenic Vilano Bridge. The 10K course continues through the beautiful grounds of the Florida School of the Deaf and Blind. Other activities include a One-Mile Fun Run following the 5K, a “Party in the Park” with kids’ activities, music, a 50/50 raffle, and a variety of food, drinks, and other items for purchase. This is a great opportunity to support our neighbors and the NSIA by either participating or as a supportive spectator.

Christ Church Among the Oaks is Grateful for our many volunteers that make everything we do in outreach, worship, and service to our community happen.....but we need more help! Altar Guild (preparing the Altar for worship and putting the elements away after the service) needs more hands, a couple of people to help make sure Roosevelt gets to church on Sundays are needed, we welcome additional people to read during the service, and we can always use more help in setting up the space for worship on Sunday morning. Let Jenny or Mother Sandy know if you have some time and the desire to help out!

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.



Our Outreach Liaisons

*So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.
James 2:17*

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.

Stan Sundermeyer srsundermeyer@msn.com.

St. Gerard 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.

Cynthia King cyndiking@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

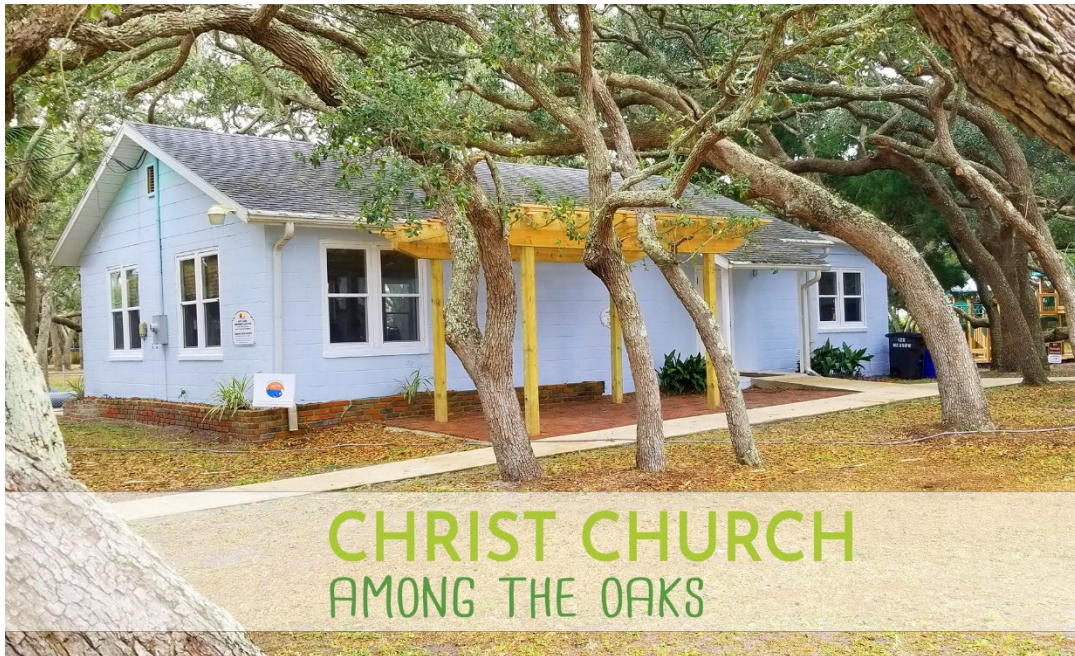
Pie in the Sky is a grassroots, volunteer-based organization providing hope by serving with dignity and respect to alleviate hunger and social isolation through the home delivery of healthy fresh produce to low-income senior citizens.

Dale Hatcher dalenhatcher@hotmail.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



NSIA Community Center, 120 Meadow Avenue in Vilano Beach

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