

THE ROYAL POINCIANA CHAPEL

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 20



Rev. Dr. Robert S. Norris, Senior Pastor

Over Troubled Waters - A Bridge

Blind and autistic singer and piano player, Kodi Lee, performed with musical precision and passion familiar lyrics we need to rehear particularly in the post-decimation, present clean up and future rehabilitation of the Bahamas. You can picture it in your mind if you saw it. If not, please Google. "America's Got Talent" contestant Kodi Lee's rendition of Simon & Garfunkel's classic ballad *Bridge Over Troubled Water* conveyed a timeless and timely message of composure, compassion and conviction.

Let me walk you through the performance. Kodi offers a long pregnant pause as he leans forward ever so slightly and begins to play the intro to a song that we have heard a thousand times. As he does, we too pause and our minds halt, shift gear and transport us back to the place where we first heard it. And in a peculiar way time stands still as the piano intro comes to a close and we hear Kodi breathe out the words ever so softly and yet powerfully, *"When you're weary, feeling small..."*

We know the lyrics by heart. *"When tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all. I'm on your side, oh, when times get rough... And friends just can't be found."* And next comes the tagline... the line we cling to and patiently wait for each time we have heard it over these last fifty years, *"Like a bridge over troubled water..."* Not just any bridge, Not just some bridge, Not a structural bridge, It's a human bridge! It is time again for us to be "a" bridge! We can be the bridge from the Abaco Islands to the mainland for those who are stranded. Not a passive bridge, but an active, living, functioning bridge that spans, connects and brings hope and help from Dorian's plunder and its wake of troubled waters. Hear the lyrics ... *"I will lay me down. Like a bridge over troubled water. I will lay me down ..."* Dear Friends, you and I, this Chapel, become the bridge over our neighbor's troubled water.

This goes on for two verses... Just Kodi, the piano, and You. Then verse three arrives, like we know it does. The crescendo builds and the song is about to explode. In the original feature, Paul Simon sidles up to the piano ready to join harmony with the song's melody... You know the beginning of the final verse... *"Sail on silver girl... Sail on by."* Now the runaway train of melody, harmony, music, chill bumps, drums, bass and you... your thoughts, your feelings, your laughter, your tears, your hopes, your dreams, your failures, your successes, your "what if's", your "I should have's", your regrets, your accomplishments ... all wrapped up in a bundle as verse three peaks. *"Your time has come to shine, all your dreams are on their way ... See how they shine. Oh, if you need a friend, I'm sailing right behind. Like a bridge over troubled water. I will ease your mind. Like a bridge over troubled water. I will ease your mind."* The last note is a high note... A lasting note... A promised note... *"I will ease your mind... like a bridge over troubled water."*

Thank you, Paul Simon for writing it ... Thank you, Art Garfunkel for giving voice to the lyrics. Thank you Kodi Lee, for these right words, at this right time, and your passionate performance before millions who through it find comfort, and sparked compassion ... Thank you!

Oh, and by the way ... Might we pause and also consider this song, as Jesus is speaking to you and to me today. *"Come to me all you who labor and are of heavy burden, and I will give you rest."* Let Jesus be THE BRIDGE laid down [and raised up] to ease your mind, to relieve your guilt, to hold your heart, to love you, always and forever ... *"Like a bridge over troubled waters, I will lay me down."*

Jesus Has!

Will I? Will You? Will We?

Bob Norris



A Letter from Cater Randolph, Board President, and Mike Cook, Treasurer

Dear Chapel Friends:

We hope you have had a wonderful summer. We are pleased to report that the Chapel has remained busy throughout the summer with increased worship attendance, a Vacation Bible Camp with 50 young participants, and programming that included Sunday School for Children and Youth, monthly meetings of our Tuesday morning Men's Bible Study, and our Twenties and Thirties Group, which continues to meet weekly. We remain blessed by a vibrant music program, and the Chapel has continued community involvement through outreach activities to benefit Urban Youth Impact, the Lord's Place, C.R.O.S. Ministries, and St. Ann Place. These year-round activities would not be possible without your support.

As you may know from Dr Norris' recent letter, the Chapel's fiscal year ends on September 30, just a few weeks from now. We have remained on budget with expenses, at virtually the same expense level as the prior year. However, our support and revenue through August 31 is about \$200,000 below our budgeted amount which was set to result in a balanced operating budget for the year --and we have a goal for September of about \$150,000, a significant amount based on our excellent year-end/September giving in recent years in response to our summertime seasonal appeals. We hope that you will help us to close this gap in support of our wonderful Chapel and its many active programs. Thank you for your generosity this year and beyond.



Cater Randolph
Board President



Mike Cook
Treasurer



Dr. Lloyd Mims

A Wonderful Day of Singing

Royal Poinciana Chapel has always loved to sing hymns. That musical form has been a backbone of worship ever since Henry Flagler decreed that there would be quality music at the Chapel. When Stewart cranks up the organ on "How Great Thou Art" or "It is Well with My Soul" and numerous other hymns, the energy in the room is infectious. That tradition is a highlight for me, and I suspect for many of you as well.

Sunday, October 13th will be a wonderful day of singing. We will join our voices for a wonderful hymn service that will include an opportunity for the congregation to request favorite hymns. Stewart will be at the instruments and I will "eyeball" you from the pulpit as we lift our voices in song with prayer and scripture interwoven. The service will bring glory to God and blessing to the participants.

Some hymns will be pre-selected for the service. However, as you arrive that morning, there will be blank forms for you to write down one or two of your favorite hymns from our hymnal. You will put those forms in the basket. Someone will be collating your selections and later in the service we will sing about 20 minutes of the hymns that receive the highest number of votes. To me that system is fairer than people calling out numbers; I can't hear such "call outs" plainly and it favors people who have loud voices. This way, we can sing a number of the great hymns you love. Bring your voices and your suggestions. As the hymnist declares: "Tune our hearts to sing Thy praise."

Stewart Foster "In Concert"

Bethesda-By-the-Sea Episcopal Church,
Palm Beach
Sunday, October 6 at 3:30 PM
Followed by Choral Evensong at 4 PM



END OF SUMMER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY Now through September 30th



We are collecting hygiene products for the clients at St. Ann Place which provides showers for the local homeless. The shower along with the hygiene products offer an immediate impact on one's dignity. We welcome donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hair combs and brushes, razors, pre-moistened wipes, gum, mints, etc. Please drop off items in the reception area @ North Entrance.
THANK YOU!



Rev. Dr. Aaron P. Janklow, Executive Pastor

The Chapel seeks to be a light for Christ in South Florida and beyond. As I look back at the past fiscal year, thank you to everyone who supported the ministry of the Chapel through financial support, participation, and prayer. Each year our worship attendance increases, and we continue to expand programs and create new ones to serve our entire Chapel community. We are truly a dynamic and growing congregation, which is a tremendous blessing, and this would not be possible without your support.

As we approach the coming “season,” I’m excited about the return of Sunday School for Adults (launch date soon to be announced), the weekly meetings of our Men’s Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 7:30am (returning to weekly schedule on Sep. 24), and the Men’s Book Club and a host of women’s studies which will be advertising their start dates in the bulletin in the coming weeks and months. As I hope you experience in worship, Flagler’s vision for a church that provides the very best in preaching and music is being continually strived for, and spiritual development opportunities for everyone, from children to adults, seek to engage all who walk through our doors in knowing that they are known and loved by God. We are an active church that is continually seeking to do more in our service to God in this and the surrounding communities.

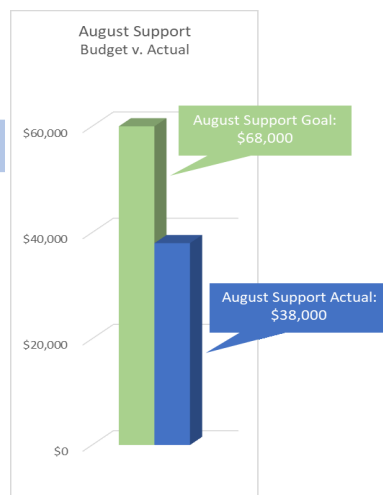
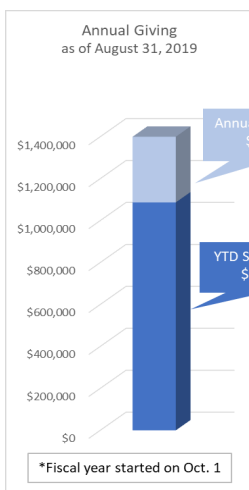
As we near the end of the fiscal year, and as you give consideration to the appeal letter sent by Dr. Norris and the message in this newsletter by Cater Randolph, Board President, and Mike Cook, Treasurer, please know that every past and future gift you make to the Chapel is valued, appreciated, and helpful to our work. We seek to be faithful stewards of what you have entrusted to us, and whatever you feel led to give is most appreciated and valued. If you feel moved to do so, please return the offering envelope included with the appeal letter sent by Dr. Norris, mail a check to the Chapel and denote in the memo line that it is for the appeal, or give online at www.royalpoincianachapel.org/giving/

Thank you for all you do to make the Chapel the special place that it is.

Aaron



Financial Snapshot as of August 31, 2019



For questions, please call the Chapel 561-655-4212 or email:

Dr. Norris, drsnorris@royalpoincianachapel.org
Dr. Janklow, dr.apjanklow@royalpoincianachapel.org
Mike Cook, Treasurer, jmichaelcook@comcast.net
Catherine D’Agostino, Finance Administrator
accounting@royalpoincianachapel.org

Annual Budgeted Support: \$1,437,000

YTD Giving: \$1,087,000

YTD Goal: \$1,286,000

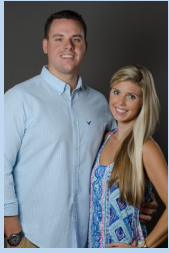
YTD Positive/Shortfall: -\$199,000

September’s Goal: \$151,000

**Making a Contribution to the Chapel
May Be Done Using your Phone.**



Or text RPC60 to 73256, or visit royalpoincianachapel.org and go to “Giving” on the top bar and select “Give”.



Christian and Ashley Crandall, Directors of Youth and Children's Ministries

Welcome to the Royal Poinciana Chapel children and youth! We are thankful for a fun and safe summer but are excited to start back our regular weekly programs. Kids Club had an action-packed kick off on Tuesday, August 27th. This event brought in 30 + children - all eager to enjoy the bounce house, face painter, crafts, pizza dinner, and more! Friday Night Live, middle school, and The Gathering, high school, kicked off on Friday, September 13th! The youth enjoyed a beautiful evening on the Chapel's great lawn - full of an epic water slide, games, cotton candy, snow cones, dinner, and more! Sunday school has begun a new curriculum titled "Buzz". The children and youth will take this curriculum through the holidays! Each class is focusing on a different topic - some of which include God's Promises, His Amazing Grace, Kingdom Safari, God's Top 10 List, and more! Also, the children of Sunday school had a wonderful back to school blessing done by Dr. Norris. Each youth was given a special flashlight to remind them of God's "light" as they embark on another school year! Matthew 5:16 says "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

If you are new here, please feel free to join us at any of our weekly programs. We would love to meet you and your family!

Blessings,

Christian & Ashley Crandall

Sunday School: Sundays at 10:30am (open to newborn through 12th grades)

Kids Club: Tuesdays from 4pm-5pm (open to newborn through 4th grades)

FNL & The Gathering: Fridays from 6pm-8pm (open to middle & high school students)

Volunteers needed for weekly children and youth programs.

Please contact Ashley Crandall for more information: admin@rpckids.com

Want to be added to our email list to receive weekly children and youth happenings? Please email admin@rpckids.com



Ruth G. Craven
Jean S. Dahlgren
Max M. Snyder

Our prayers are with the Chapel families who have recently lost their loved one.

REMEMBERING EDDIE LITTLE

Plans are underway to complete the hospitality center in memory of Eddie Little, beloved Chapel friend and staff of 56 years at the North Entrance of the Chapel by early November. Please send a favorite copy of a photo you have with Eddie or of Eddie by emailing debbie@royalpoincianachapel.org or by dropping it off at the receptionist desk. Copies only please, no originals.

HURRICANE DORIAN RELIEF

As the Chapel keeps the people of the Bahamas and the recovery effort there in our heartfelt prayers, we encourage you to give directly to nonprofit organizations supporting the work already underway, as so many of you already have. If you would like to know of places the Chapel has had contact with in such emergency situations, please call the Chapel office.

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

As you may have seen from the architectural renderings displayed in the reception area, we will be expanding the current Columbarium. While originally planned to be started and completed this summer, due to the length of time it took to obtain the permit, this project has been delayed until the summer of 2020. We look forward to its completion next summer!

The Royal Poinciana Chapel
60 Coconut Row
Palm Beach, FL 33480
561-655-4212

www.royalpoincianachapel.org