

This Week @ First



Member Spotlight

This week, we spotlight **Virginia Thomas**. She is the widow of Davis Thomas, who pastored this church from 1956-1968.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27

These are the words of the Psalmist that Virginia's mother taught her were her own. In Lent, the church hosted a Service of Wholeness where Virginia gave a testimony that spoke to her faith in Jesus Christ. May your faith be grown by Virginia's witness at First Presbyterian church. Watch [here](https://youtu.be/Sn9ijGTvgas): <https://youtu.be/Sn9ijGTvgas>.

First Presbyterian Church

110 North Adams Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Phone: (850) 222-4504

Fax: (850) 222-2215

Email: office@oldfirstchurch.org

Website: www.oldfirstchurch.org

www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch

Ministry Teams

Worship & Music: Sermon Series

Look for our **summer sermon series** June 25-July 16 alongside our book study of *Necessary Risks*. To learn about other churches sermon series, [visit tinyurl.com/4s87znfc](http://visit.tinyurl.com/4s87znfc).

Compassion & Social Justice

Second Harvest's Packing Blitz will be at the Civic Center Friday, July 28th, from 6 am-6 pm. This is an energizing and organized event to feed the hungry in our community. To lead or participate, [contact Debbie Gibson](mailto:gibsond1207@gmail.com) at gibsond1207@gmail.com or (850) 656-3659.

While the **Guns to Gardens** event may have been cancelled, we continue work on "disarming hearts and forging peace". We will be able to melt down 28 guns from neighbors of our community. Thank you to all who supported these efforts.

Care & Outreach

Over the summer, this team will be working on **church membership rolls**.

Following the memorial service on June 14 of **Sally Scott**, who died June 5th, the team hosted a reception.

Property: Renovations

We're currently renovating the upstairs bathrooms in the Education building! Please use the **downstairs** bathroom until renovations are complete.



Personnel: ReKindle Grant

Our church received the ReKindle Grant from Columbia Theological Seminary. It is a congregational redevelopment grant. With the grant's \$10,000, we will conduct an audit of church communications, commission an artist for a community art project, and host a Fall retreat.

Interim Goals

Healing

Compassionate Witnessing

The Envisioning Reconciliation Committee is bringing Compassionate Witnessing to the congregation in small groups. Compassionate Witnessing is a restorative practice that allows for the collective processing of trauma. We know many are eager to move forward, and this process will create a strong foundation from which we can engage in difficult conversations. If you know a small group that could benefit, please reach out to Restoration@OldFirstChurch.org.

Book Study: *Necessary Risks*

This summer, our congregation is invited to read *Necessary Risks* by Teri McDowell Ott together. Tip Tomberlin and Anne Apple will facilitate a **five week, Wednesday book study** June 28th-July 26th (12-1 pm in the Calvin Room and 6:30-7:30 by Zoom.) If you need help purchasing the book, contact Anne at Anne@OldFirstChurch.org.

Administration

Fran Owens is our new Financial Administrator! The short version of Fran's duties includes ensuring offerings are recorded and deposited correctly, paying bills in a timely manner, making sure our financial reporting is up to date and accurate, and facilitating financial transactions. If you have any questions, contact Fran at Fran@OldFirstChurch.org.

Worship and Program

Our sermon series this summer:

- **June 25th:** The Risk of Being Troubled
- **July 2nd:** The Risk of Trusting God will Provide
- **July 9th:** The Risk of Letting Go
- **July 16th:** The Risk of Listening

We will follow the lectionary and look for risks God calls us to take.

Pastoral Note

Before starting my first week as the pastoral intern, I thought I would come to church on Sunday and get a feel for the community. It was a successful mission, though I couldn't have guessed how successful it would be! What I thought would be quietly sitting in a back row turned into a whole-hearted welcome from the community, one that I fully appreciate as a college student who's never been to Tallahassee before.

This week, I've time and time again seen the welcoming nature of this congregation play out. All through my first day and getting to meet Virginia Thomas, Walmart/Publix runs with Anne Apple and Barbara Busharis, Compassionate Witnessing with the Envisioning Reconciliation Committee, dinner with my Discernment Committee, and all the moments in between, I've felt the warm embrace of the Holy Spirit through you all. I'm truly looking forward to the rest of this summer getting to meet and glorify God with you all.



Peace,
Ellie Stewart