

The New Hope



The Newsletter of IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH FEBRUARY 2020

February 2020

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Relaxed worship service with an emphasis on Healing including Holy Eucharist


Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Traditional Book of Common Prayer Holy Eucharist Rite I

Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Celebrate God's grace, goodness and gifts.
Our principal Sunday service is offered with joyful music.

(childcare, church school, healing)

Tuesdays—9:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer in Spanish

Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist and Healing

From the Rector

2019 Annual Parish Meeting Report
Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
January 26, 2020

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Mt 11:28-30, NIV)

Greetings.

This scripture came to mind as I began to think about this report. It is a collection of verses that are comforting. Who among us hasn't felt burdened and weary and wished for rest? Who among us has not rejoiced when we have found a time a place for respite?

Many of you have found a place like this at Iona-Hope. For some it is a place of refuge where you can be who God made you. For others it is a place of wondering and thinking through your beliefs. For others it is where you meet your friends and grow in relationships with others. For all of us, it is a place where we constitute the Body of Christ.

This is who we are, the Body of Christ. This identity informs our presence and work in the world. It is how we know what to do. It guides, comforts and challenges us.

I write this report with this understanding in mind. I will highlight 2019 and offer some sense of direction for 2020.

2019

The part of the Body of Christ known as Iona-Hope was very busy during 2019. Throughout the year, we welcomed and received people into our fellowship and sent people out into the world to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ in word and deed. We shared funding and ministry with various ministry partners (detailed in the meeting booklet), completed a successful stewardship campaign for 2020, started an endowment, began Phase I of our new facility project and updated our audio/video system in the worship space. We met challenges, celebrated life and found joy in our common work.

One of the challenges that we met is related to our Assisted Living Facilities ministry. For the past few years, we have supplied a team of worship leaders to lead worship in multiple assisted living facilities. These worship leaders led on a rotating basis and, when leading, missed attending services at Iona-Hope. The people who attended the services valued our presence and looked forward to the services. About two years ago, it became difficult to schedule leaders. We announced the need for new leaders in the bulletin, email and newsletter and attempted to recruit folks. On a

couple of occasions, we had people step up and provide leadership. By early 2019, we saw that this scenario would replay. Again, we tried to recruit leaders and leadership. Being unsuccessful, we began the process of shutting down ALF. Over a period of a few months, we worked with the facilities and worshipers to transition out of the ministry. Finally, in the fall, we stepped away.

This move was very painful, nothing that anyone wanted. It will leave a group without worship leadership and negatively affect our annual attendance numbers as we reported 20 – 30 each week. Ultimately, we came to see that this program ran its course and we will discern future directions.

2020

This year is set to be as eventful as 2019. As I write this, workers are completing the demolition of the original Gathering Place. This past weekend we had our first experiences in the new Gathering Place, even as we work to finish it. The construction should be completed by April 2 and we hope to be using the labyrinth during Holy Week. The demolition has confirmed that the Gathering Place needed to be removed and was in worse condition than we thought.

In 2018, I announced to your vestry that I intended to take my sabbatical in 2020. We have moved ahead with this and I am planning to be on sabbatical, May 1 – August 1 and on vacation August 1 to September 1. This October I will celebrate the thirty-fifth anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. This is my first sabbatical in these thirty-five years, and I look forward to it. Sabbaticals in academia are focused on research and production. In the church, our sabbaticals are focused on sabbath. Nancy and I are planning time of rest and travel. I will be learning some skills that I want to learn. We plan to return to you rested and refreshed.

While I am on sabbatical, Mother Suzy will oversee liturgical and pastoral concerns and Joe Mulino (Sr. Warden) will oversee administrative issues. Mother Suzy and I will work out liturgical details that will include guest preachers and celebrants so that she will not be overburdened. Nevertheless, she will continue her wonderful presence during this time.

Since the summer is when we catch up on various administrative functions and is lower attendance, we will not be initiating any new programs or activities during this time. It is a good time for you to find holy rest in your worship and ministry while inviting others to find rest at Iona-Hope.

Recently, a group gathered to talk about how to let those who are weary and burdened know that there is rest and refreshment in God and that a place to encounter this is at Iona-Hope. We focused our discussion using a program entitled Invite, Welcome and Connect. We have met two times and have another meeting scheduled. With your vestry at its core, this group will be a place to engage each other (including you) in letting folks know what you have found at Iona-Hope. You are welcome to join us in the process and, in fact, are essential to it. There is more to follow as we move ahead in this process in 2020 including considering how our small group structure interfaces with it.

As we complete our current construction project, your vestry will need to look ahead to Phase II. This will include further assessment of the longevity of our current administrative and program buildings and beginning consideration of the building that we envision. As we move through this process, we will need to look at how we will finance construction. This will likely necessitate a capital campaign.

Each year, we encounter new and unplanned challenges. We expect this and know that often they point us in new directions. We look forward to these challenges.

Summary

Responding to the weary and burdened is full-time work. It takes every one of us to do it and we each bring gifts to share in the work. Our staff, Marnie, Cyndi, Loren, Chris, Tim, Donna, Ken and Eileen bring gifts, talents and dedication to their work. It is a pleasure to work with them and they do so much on our behalf. Our great volunteers, Patty, Michele, Karen, Jon, the office and thrift store volunteers and the various people who

assist in liturgy represent you well and enhance our presence in the community, pointing others in our direction. Julie Vergin defines parish nurse with an emphasis on defining parish as in the world, not within the walls

of the church. She cares deeply and brings a spiritual passion to her ministry that is very moving. Joe Mulino, Sr. Warden and your vestry work hard to ensure that we have the resources to worship God and care for our community. And you. We cannot do this without you. You support and challenge us and remind us that we do not do this for ourselves but for God made known in Jesus and hurting people.

And Suzy Post. She is a trusted friend, colleague and wonderful priest. She welcomes and shares burdens and comforts the weary. She makes this work a joy.

One other person deserves our gratitude. In addition to his liturgical presence, Fr. John Gamble has been functioning as our project manager for the reconstruction. He interfaces between the construction folks and the rector and vestry. He does a superb job and has kept the project moving in some very important ways, in addition to saving us money. In so doing, he takes much off me and does so much more that I can do. Thank you, Fr. John.

So, our task today is the same as any other. We are here to remind others that the Body of Christ is where all who are weary and burdened will find rest. And that the yoke that we bear is light because we bear it together and with Christ.

Peace. Ray+

Mother Suzy Annual Meeting Report

It is truly a blessing to serve as your associate Priest here at Iona Hope. I came to the parish almost five years ago! I am blessed to be serving with your Rector, Fr. Ray Buchanan. Ray and Nancy are not only colleagues, but good friends. I thank Ray for his ministry and for calling me to be your associate Priest.

We have had a busy year. In 2019 I started a new program at Iona Hope - "Theology and the Movies." I am happy to it was a big success. We watched movies during Lent and Advent. Each movie was very well attended and we have had important, good discussions after each film. We are continuing the program during this years Lenten season. As we continue to grow and worship together, we had a very successful Confirmation Class in 2019. 15 people attended the class and 10 of them were confirmed/received into the Episcopal Church. What a joy!! When thinking upon all the ministries here at Iona Hope that we participate in together it makes me appreciate all the more my calling to be serving here at Iona Hope.

I would like to thank the staff at Iona Hope, Marnie Ike, Ken and Donna Owens, Loren Strickland and the musicians, Julie Vergin our parish nurse, they have become a part of my Church family and dear friends. It is a joy to work and do ministry with these people, they are a blessing to me and to Iona Hope and I thank them for all they do. Something that we added to Advent this year was a Blue Christmas service. I have never been a part of that service before and I must say that it was a moving, blessed experience of the Holy Spirit at work. We had a touching service of healing, prayers, music and communion. I am amazed at all the opportunities for ministry. When we think we have done it all, there is still so much more to do. God is always calling us to new chapters of our lives.

I have said this to a few of you, that I can't imagine my life without knowing this parish and its people. The words "*everyone is welcome*" is really taken to heart. Everyone IS welcome and everyone is an important part of this body of Christ.

I heard a Priest close a Sunday service with these words, "***May the Wisdom of God, the Love of God & the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's Hands & Heart in this world.***" I know that Iona Hope is truly working and continuing to work as Christ's hands and hearts in the world. May we together as a vibrant body of Christ listen, pray, discern and love. Love each other. When we do, that love will keep our hands and hearts working for Christ to be a voice of grace and peace in the world.

Bless you all, Suzy+

Senior Warden Annual Meeting Report—Joe Mulino

2019 was another great year at Iona-Hope Episcopal Church and a year of change. Attendance at all services during the year continues to increase. We are a diverse congregation that “Welcomes All” Thanks to Patrick Hunt and his team for running a successful 2019 Stewardship Campaign and thank you all for your continued support of Iona-Hope.

2019 saw the results of our Capital Campaign take shape. Some of the offices and All Purpose Room have now been transformed into the New Gathering Place. Work continues with the removal of the old gathering place and makes way for our new Columbarium, Fountain and Labyrinth. Special thanks goes out to Fr. John Gamble for his time, expertise and dedication in supervising and managing these construction changes.

Thanks to the efforts of Nancy Buchanan, Rob Ricca, Mother Suzy and the fundraiser volunteers and the additional cash donation provided by The Rev. Maggie Minnick our 2019 Mardi Gras Fundraiser was a great success which enabled Iona-Hope to reach out to the Gladiolus Food Pantry and provide them with a check for \$10,000. This year’s Mardi Gras Fundraiser which will take place on February 21st and will benefit Kids Hope Care. We are currently still looking for Sponsors to cover the initial expenses of the event. Silent Auction items can be directed to Nancy Buchanan and Mother Suzy.

I would be remiss in not thanking all of the small group leaders for their time and dedication in supporting the various groups sponsored by Iona-Hope and a special thank you to Ardis Uberti for all she does in coordinating the monthly Hunger Ministry Supper Club. Thank you all your support in attending and hosting our Supper Club throughout the year, which generated \$3,375 for the Hunger Ministry.

A special thank you also goes out to all of the volunteers who assist during the year in serving and providing refreshments after the services on Saturday and Sunday.

2019 was been a difficult time for the Thrift Store, as many of you know Big Lots moved out in 2019 which dramatically reduced the foot traffic. However with the support of its Manager, Eileen Carrara and the many Volunteers the Thrift Store was still able to provide \$20,000 to various Outreach recipients and ended the year with only a small loss. Congratulations to all support and work at the Iona-Hope Thrift Store.

At this time I would like to ask Gail Hamlett to come up to present a special surprise gift to Iona-Hope from the Women’s Breakfast Club.

It is an honor for me to serve as your Senior Warden and work with the Vestry, Mother Suzy and Fr. Ray. On behalf of all of us I would like to thank you for all you have done to make Iona-Hope Episcopal Church a place where all are welcome and look forward to your continued support as we move forward in 2020.

Peace, Joe Mulino – Senior Warden

Junior Warden Annual Meeting Report—Ray Zentis

The work of the Junior Warden is to manage the process of keeping the church facilities in good, working condition for all church community happenings. This includes a fairly wide range of activity for a facility such as ours. It involves keeping the electrical, lighting, plumbing, structure, doors, windows, and hardware in good working order – and making needed repairs and improvements as necessary. At any given time our to-do list has about a dozen items – some small and some much larger and more complicated.

To get this work done we have formed a Junior Warden Team. The team includes Ray Zentis, Junior Warden, plus helpers Roger Ruth, Steve Walsh, Jim Foster, Dallas Kunkle, and others that we tap from time to time. The skills this group include most of the common fix-it things needed to keep everything working well.

We have a paid handyman, Kenny Torres, to do those things that stretch or exceed the capabilities of the team – skills, youth, strength, balance, tools, etc. When necessary to address other needs we use local suppliers and contractors.

Over the course of the year there are literally dozens of things done from little things that keep the place livable to more important improvement such as painting, the installation of handicap toilets, and more. The current construction project does not fall under the responsibility of the Junior Warden.

In addition to the Junior Warden Team we must acknowledge the ongoing excellent work of our Sextons Ken and Donna Owens and our grounds and garden man Jeffery Rosemann. Their work is outstanding and is very much appreciated. Our thanks to them.

Treasurers Annual Meeting Report—Debbie Prather

“You are amazing - just the way you are” lyrics from a Bruno Mars song and then there is our favorite hymn “Amazing Grace”. I follow Iona-Hope by the numbers and it is exciting. You are amazing because all year long there is more money going out than coming in and then at the last minute – it changes. We finished the year in the black meaning we took in more money than we spent. See how exciting it is and how amazing you are. Thank you for your generosity especially in response to the Christmas letter that raised \$10,000 for new furniture and equipment for the new gathering space.

A special thanks to Marnie Ike, Bob Hunt and the counters and John Thomas. Thanks to Patrick Hunt, Stephen Minegar and Bob Earl for another successful stewardship campaign. A shout out of appreciation to Nancy Buchanan and Rob Ricca for a rousing Mardi Gras that sent \$10,000 to the Gladiolus Food Pantry.

I would also like to thank Eileen and all the volunteers at the Thrift Shop for their hard work and to all those who brought in the goods for them to sell. Iona-Hope on behalf of the Thrift Shop gave \$25,000 in grants. It was not necessary for us to use any monies from the thrift shop toward our operating budget.

As many of you know, foot traffic is down in the mall where the thrift shop is located due to Big Lots closing. Income at the thrift shop is down 10% compared to last year. We have another three years on our lease. We have tried to negotiate a reduction or a release from the lease. This has not worked. We will need to be very creative to increase the number of customers shopping with us. Any suggestions are welcome. It is our thrift shop.

I encourage all who have outstanding balances on their pledge to the capital campaign to bring them up to date as soon as possible so that we do not have to use our line of credit to pay our final construction bills in April.

This year we will be operating under a balanced spending plan due to your continued giving. Thank you so much.

Gratitude, Peace and Blessings! Debbie Prather

Caregivers Connect

Caregiving for a family member either short or long term brings both challenges and rewards. Join with us as we explore how to support one another on this journey. *Caregivers Connect* will meet again on Thursday, February 6th, from 9:30-11:00am and the **first Thursday of the month thereafter.** We look forward to this being an upbeat and supportive group for all. Group meets in the multi-purpose room.



Please visit our website

www.ionahope.org

Bulletins, Newsletters, Schedules, Calendars, Weekly Readings, Daily Devotionals and Parishioner Resources are all available at the click of a button.



BPDT—Thursday, February 13, 2020

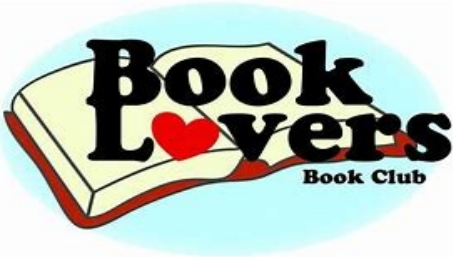


Kinky Boots

Based on true happenings, this heartwarming story tells of Charlie, a factory owner struggling to save his shoe business and Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. The two have seemingly nothing in common, but with a little compassion and a lot of understanding, this unlikely duo learns to embrace their differences and find they have more in common than they think! Featuring original songs by pop icon Cyndi Lauper, this high-energy, full-hearted hit is inspiring audiences to let love shine and showing them that sometimes the best way to fit in is to stand out!

To sign up for this performance please contact the church office during normal business hours (239) 454 4778, or by email at office@ionahope.org. Tickets are \$50.00 per person and payment is due when you call. Please do not put checks in the plate and expect to have a seat. You are not guaranteed a seat until you speak with someone in the office or send an email and you have received a response back.

Iona-Hope Book Club



Our February selection is **"The Education of Little Tree"** by Forrest Carter, a short book (232 pages) with many important life lessons. It is considered a classic and sold over one million copies. Joe Harper will lead this discussion on **Friday, February 21st** at 1:15 p.m. at the church. Please bring a friend.

The Book:

"The Education of Little Tree" tells of a boy orphaned very young, who is adopted by his Cherokee grandmother and half-Cherokee grandfather in the Appalachian mountains of Tennessee during the Great Depression. Little Tree as his grandparents call him is shown how to hunt and survive in the mountains, to respect nature in the Cherokee Way, taking only what is needed, leaving the rest for nature to run its course. Little Tree also learns the often-callous ways of white businessmen and tax collectors, and how Granpa, in hilarious vignettes, scares them away from his illegal attempts to enter the cash economy. Granma teaches Little Tree the joys of reading and education. But when Little Tree is taken away by whites for schooling, we learn of the cruelty meted out to Indian children to assimilate them and of Little Tree's perception of the Anglo world and how it differs from the Cherokee Way. A classic of its era, and an enduring book for all ages. (Goodreads)

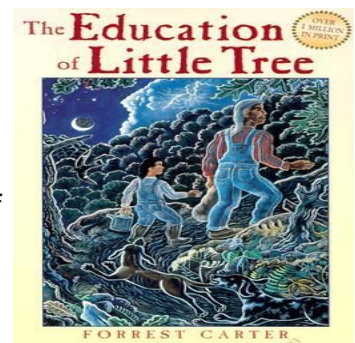
The Film:

"The Education of Little Tree" is a 1997 American drama film written and directed by Richard Friedenberg, and starring James Cromwell, Joseph Ashton, Tantoo Cardinal, Graham Greene, and Mika Boorem. It is based on the controversial 1976 fictional memoir of the same title by Forrest Carter about an orphaned boy raised by his paternal Scottish-descent grandfather and Cherokee grandmother in the Great Smoky Mountains. Friedenberg was nominated for a Humanitas Prize for Best Feature Film, while Cardinal and Greene both won First Americans in the Arts Awards for their performances. The film was also nominated for three Young Artist Awards, winning two—one for Ashton's performance, and a Jackie Coogan Award for best feature.

The Author:

Asa Earl "Forrest" Carter was an American political speechwriter and author. He was most notable for publishing novels and a best-selling, award-winning memoir under the name Forrest Carter, an identity as a Native American Cherokee. In 1976, following the publication success of his western *The Rebel Outlaw: Josey Wales*, *The New York Times* revealed Forrest Carter to be Southerner Asa Earl Carter. His background became national news again in 1991 after his purported memoir, *The Education of Little Tree*, was re-issued in paperback and topped the Times paperback best-seller lists (both non-fiction and fiction). It also won the American Booksellers Book of the Year (ABBY) award.

Prior to his literary career as "Forrest", Carter was politically active for years in Alabama as an opponent to the civil rights movement: he worked as a speechwriter for segregationist Governor George Wallace of Alabama; founded the North Alabama Citizens Council (NACC) and an independent Ku Klux Klan group; and started the pro-segregation monthly titled *The Southerner*.



Carnival Time!
5th Annual Mardi Gras Celebration
Friday, February 21, 2020

Ticket sales end February 9

**Buy your tickets after church services,
 in the church office during the week,
 or online at
ionahopemardigras.eventbrite.com**

\$50 each



VESTRY MEMBERS - 2020

Joe Mulino Senior Warden
 Ray Zentis Junior Warden
 Deborah Prather Treasurer
 John Thomas Assistant Treasurer
 Paula Paquette Clerk to the Vestry

Vestry Members

Class of	Name
2021	Robin Mills
2021	Andi Jerger
2021	Debbie Prather
2022	Joe Mulino
2022	Margo Farrara
2022	Patty Ingram
2023	Bob Earl
2023	Ray Zentis
2023	Alison Kinch



Happy Valentine's Day



Three things will last forever
Faith, Hope, and Love



The 9th annual Nehemiah Action is only six weeks away. The organization is in need of help as we prepare. Please, look to the following three requests and see if you're able to help in the work of justice.

One- we are in need of volunteers for the Rally on Monday, February 24th at Covenant Presbyterian.

Our Rally starts at 7:00 PM but volunteers should arrive at 6:00. We're looking for people to help with directing traffic, taking tickets, and serving as ushers. Please RSVP if you're able to help.

Two- We are hiring for a position beginning in May. If you know of anyone with a heart for justice, a great work ethic, and a desire to serve SWFL; please share this posting <https://thedartcenter.org/apply/>

Three- Our committees have been working tirelessly to prepare our presentations for the Nehemiah Action. The affordable housing committee has worked to craft an affordable housing trust fund proposal and our children's committee is working on a plan to secure childcare for the 218 impoverished babies on the waitlist for affordable daycare. As members grow weary but excited, we look to fellow network members to join in the conversation.

Also, consider joining the upcoming research meetings shared below. RSVP if you intend to attend.

Thursday, January 30th

Councilwoman Gaile Anthony
Noon-2 Mount Hermon Ministries

Tuesday, February 11th 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

County Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass
Mount Hermon Ministries

Above all else- please lift the work in prayer. When LIFE recently approached Mayor Henderson regarding an affordable housing trust fund we were told that those who can't afford housing ought to become welders so they can make more money and afford to live in the city. We know that big changes are needed and appreciate your help in making these changes a reality- as we work towards a community where all families can afford a roof overhead

Chelsea Baker, LIFE Lead Organizer,

Please Join Us on Facebook

Please “find us on Facebook” at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Iona-Hope-Episcopal-Church/> Feel free to post in our group, whether you have an event to remind members of or if you just would like to express how much you enjoyed something you attended. Facebook can be great fun for sharing news and staying “in the loop” about all that’s happening around the church.

The Facebook logo is displayed in white text on a blue rectangular background with rounded corners and a slight drop shadow.

*Sabbath
Taizé*

*Song &
Stillness*

*Monday, February 3rd
4:30pm*

Iona Hope Episcopal Church

9650 Gladiolus Drive, Ft. Myers, FL 33908

SPONSORS & AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION



WE ARE REACHING OUT TO EVERYONE AND ASKING YOU TO SPEAK TO RESTAURANT MANAGERS, STORES, AND VENDORS THAT YOU FREQUENT OR HAVE A CONNECTION WITH TO SPONSOR OR MAKE A DONATION TO OUR MARDI GRAS FUNDRAISER.

WE ARE HAPPY TO RECEIVE NEW ITEMS (BIG & SMALL), SERVICES, GIFT BASKETS, GIFT CARDS, ART, VACATION/TRAVEL SERVICES, ETC. FOR THE AUCTION.

PLEASE TURN IN AUCTION DONATIONS NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH SO THAT WE CAN GET EVERYTHING CATALOGUED IN TIME.

FOR SPONSORSHIP FORMS OR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ROB RICCA OR NANCY BUCHANAN AT IONAHOPEFUNDRAISING@GMAIL.COM

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS ANOTHER FUN AND SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER FOR IONA-HOPE!



Iona-Hope Quiet Days 2020

Please mark your calendars now for the Quiet Days which will be held at Iona-Hope this coming program year. Father Ray Buchanan presents topics which relate to the seasons of the church and the seasons of our lives. Please plan to attend these very meaningful days and enjoy the opportunity to pause for a moment of quiet reflection in your busy life.

Saturday, February 29 - Lenten Quiet Day

Saturday, May 2 - Spring Quiet Day

All Quiet Days begin at 10:00 am with coffee and a light breakfast available at 9:30 am. Lunch is served at 12 noon. Quiet Days conclude at 2:00 p.m.



GIFTS TO HONOR

A very meaningful way to thank or recognize a colleague or loved one is by permanently naming a chair in the sanctuary for them. For a cost of \$125.00 which benefits Iona Hope's ongoing facilities and other needs, you can give the gift of a chair, in memory, in celebration, in thanksgiving or to the Glory of God. In acknowledgement for your gift, a card will be sent to the appropriate person(s). For additional information, or if you have any questions, please contact the church office at 454-4778.

How we converse with one another...

Confidentiality ▲ Discuss issues, not people ▲ Equal time (this includes listening, not debating) ▲ Freedom not to participate in conversation ▲ Speak for yourself using "I" statements ▲ One person will talk at a time/No side conversations ▲ We will begin and end on time ▲ No personal attacks/ Respect for each other ▲ Amnesty/No reprisal/ Forgiveness ▲ No one will dominate ▲ Okay to disagree but not be disagreeable ▲ Take care of your own creature comforts ▲ Name tags will be worn at all gatherings.

Altar Flowers

Please support our method of stewardship in our congregation through the Altar Flower Program. The suggested cost for sponsoring weekend flowers is \$50.00. We now utilize beautiful silk arrangements at the altar and your cash gift is now used 100% to help the hungry.

We have many vacancies.

Please pick a weekend!

Please use the flower sign up sheet in The Adler Gathering Place.



Ronald McDonald House of Southwest Florida

collects pop tabs instead of the entire aluminum can because the tabs are pure, high quality aluminum and are easier to store. Pull tabs are a simple way to recycle and help the House. Some interesting facts about the program:

- We receive the going rate for aluminum, which changes as the demand changes - varying from rates of 23 to 52 cents per pound on any given period.
- We average about 450 pounds every 10 days, or approximately \$234.
- Every penny helps families stay at the House -- \$10 pays for one family for one night!
- Approximately one million pull tabs = 800 pounds
- Approximately 1,430 pull tabs = one pound
- Approximately 63,360 pull tabs = 1 mile

Please pass the word to friends, neighbors, business, etc. Please remember to drop the tabs in the designated receptacles in the church and Adler Gathering Place. For more information please call 239 437-0202 or stop by the House at 16100 Roserush Ct, Ft. Myers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb 2 Gloria Thomas

Feb 5 Bruce Moden

Feb 7 Bob Bentley

Feb 9 Jeff Dorey

Feb 9 Howard Roux

Feb 10 Janice Westgate

Feb 13 Karen Jarboe

Feb 15 Robert Ricca

Feb 17 Trish Kyser

Feb 17 Charles Lane

Feb 17 Marilyn Watson

Feb 18 Roger Lang

Feb 18 David Rampp

Feb 19 Mary Lou Morrison

Feb 20 Lorraine Holley

Feb 21 Mike Donlan

Feb 23 Jim Westrope

Feb 25 Gail Hamlett

Feb 25 Virginia Leung

Feb 26 Richard Morgan

Feb 27 Sharon Terry

Feb 28 Mary Halloran

Feb 29 Janet George

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Feb 3 Bruce & Barb Moden

Feb 6 Patrick & Robert Hunt

Feb 22 Johnny & Janet Wright

If we're missing your
birthday or
anniversary here, let
us know!

Call the church office
239 454-4778 or
e-mail

office@ionahope.org



IONA-HOPE'S ONE MORE TIME THRIFT STORE

Our Thrift Store continues to thrive. Please remember us when you have items to donate. We accept all clothes, household goods, furniture and miscellaneous items at the back of the store Monday through Saturday from 10:00 until 3:30. Remember we cannot accept mattresses, TVs ,or computer equipment.

Check out our Facebook page to be aware of special sales. We always need people to volunteer helping to sort and price. Call Cindy at 239-489-3910 to volunteer for a 3 hour shift, either 10:00 to 1:00 or 1:00 to 4:00.

We thank you very much for your donations as the proceeds help to support our community outreach goals.

Donations
are greatly
Appreciated!

2020 Monthly Planners

Iona-Hope 2020 monthly planners are now available. The actual cost per planner is \$4.00. Donations would be greatly appreciated to help cover the cost.

Saturday February 1st &
Sunday February 2nd.

Be a Winner and donate
some soup to the
Gladiolus Food Pantry.



Please bring your dona-
tions to church on February 1st or 2nd. If you
forget this weekend you may bring them to the
church office no later than Tuesday at noon.

KEEP US UPDATED



Please remember to keep the church office updated on any change of address, phone number, or e-mail address. Contact the church office at 239-454-4778 or by e-mail at office@ionahope.org

Core Values

*All are welcome, Openness to risk,
change and growth,
Jesus is model
Strong, real, personal
relationship with Jesus
Disciples making disciples
Mission doing mission*

THE MASON JAR

Sunday, at the Annual Meeting, the Women's Breakfast group, represented by Gail Hamlett, presented the 'Mason Jar' that we have been collecting funds in for the last nine months.

Last April we decided to keep this little jar, and each Tuesday put in a dollar or two for the little unexpected costs that always arise during a construction project. To our great surprise we raised \$496.

Any small group can do this and we would like to encourage the many different kinds of small groups who meet regularly in this church to take on this challenge.

It only requires a commitment at your weekly or monthly meetings, and, we even have jars for you! It doesn't matter how much you put in them — or even how much you collect — what matters is the Spirit of Involvement.

So, if you are up for it, take a jar and give it a try. There is a box of jars in the back of the church, please help yourselves. We have been amazed at how this has motivated an Attitude of Gratitude in all of us.

By Gail Hamlett



**Please continue to donate
your old mascara wands!**

**All God's Creatures recently donated 126
wands collected from you to**

**Wands for Wildlife®
RECYCLE & SAVE WILD LIVES!**

**Please save your old mascara wands, wash
them in soapy water to remove residual
mascara, then drop them in the container
under the All God's Creatures bulletin board
in the Gathering Place.**

Please do not purchase new wands.

The program was set up to recycle and re-purpose old wands.



We are looking for
welcomers and
ushers at all 3
services.

If you are
interested, please
contact the church office at 239 454 4778 or
office@ionahope.org for more information.

BRIDGE GROUP

Welcome back. Our northern bridge buddies are back in sunny, warm Ft. Myers. Our next meeting will be on Friday, February 28, 2020 at 12:30 pm.. As always, I will call to remind our players of the date and time. If you are interested in joining us, please call Charlie Champlin.



February 26th

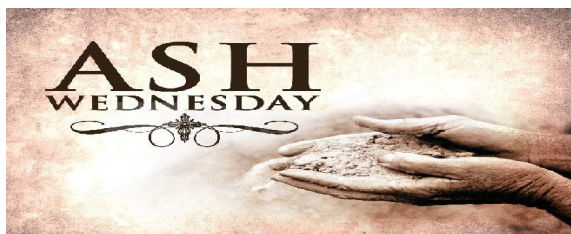
In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers.

Not all Christian churches observe Ash Wednesday or Lent. They are mostly observed the Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican denominations, and also by Roman Catholics. Eastern Orthodox churches observe Lent or Great Lent, during the 6 weeks or 40 days preceding Palm Sunday with fasting continuing during the Holy Week of Orthodox Easter. Lent for Eastern Orthodox churches begins on Monday (called Clean Monday) and Ash Wednesday is not observed.

The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of Lent, however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3; and Matthew 11:21.

**Please join us at our 9:30 a.m.
service or our 6:00 p.m. service
For the Imposition of Ashes**



IONA-HOPE BOOK CLUB CALENDAR – 2020

The following books were selected at the November 2019 meeting for the upcoming year:

February 21	The Education of Little Tree by Forrest Carter – 228 pages Discussion Leader: Joe Harper
March 20	Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance – 257 pages Discussion Leader: Mary Jane Buster
April 17	Daughter of Fortune by Isabelle Allende – 432 pages Discussion Leader: Mary Jo Brown
May 15	Lincoln’s Last Trial by Don Abrams, David Fisher - 320 pages Discussion Leader: John Winters
June 19	Lost Girls of Paris by Pat Jenoff – 384 pages Discussion Leader: Muriel Butler
July 17	Wide Awake & Dreaming: Memoir by Julie Flygare – 213 pages Discussion Leaders: Sherry and John
August 21	The Music Shop by Rachel Joyce – 306 pages Discussion Leader: Sherry Winters
September 18	The Library Book by Susan Orlean – 336 pages Discussion Leader: Mary Beth Harper
October 16	The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict – 256 pages Discussion Leader: Trish Kyser
November 20	Selection of books for 2021
December 18	Holiday luncheon

FREE CLASSES!



Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (AFEP)

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30am to 11:30am
January 28 through March 19, 2020**

For People Living With Arthritis Stiffness & Pain

AFEP classes are designed for adults age 60 and over to reduce arthritis pain and stiffness, build muscle around your joints, increase your energy, and prevent other health problems. These gentle exercises can be done either sitting or standing.

*Arthritis Foundation Certified.
Doctor Recommended.*

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church,
9650 Gladiolus Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33908
(239)454-4778

**CLASS SIZE LIMITED.
REGISTER TODAY!**

Sherry Young
Health & Wellness Coordinator
Area Agency on Aging for SWFL
(866) 413-5337
sherry.young@aaaswfl.org
www.AAASWFL.org

Funding provided by a grant for Disease Prevention & Health Promotion under the 2019 Older Americans Act Title IIIID through the Department of Elder Affairs.



**ALL
ARE
WELCOME**

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
YouTube
CHANNEL**

As most of you are aware we recently upgraded our Audio/Visual system in the church. The new system enables us to stream our weekend services live. We are in the process of testing this out.

In order to watch the services online you have to subscribe to Iona-Hope's you tube channel. To do this, please visit our website and click on the link on the bottom of our homepage for more instructions.

You can also follow the instructions from our Friday email.

Once you have subscribed and enabled the notifications you will then receive alerts when the services start.



Have you always wanted to learn to knit or crochet? Come and we will teach you. We will supply the yarn and needles and patterns!

Everyone is welcome. We have members who are not members of our church, and members who can not attend the meetings, but send us their completed projects.

We meet every Friday from 10-12 (except Summer time) here at Iona Hope and we'd love to have you join us.

May God's grace be upon this shawl...

warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.

May this mantle be a safe haven...

A sacred place of security and well-being...

sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.

May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love.

AN INTERFAITH STUDY OF PRAYER

Gathering—6:30-7:00

Study - 7:00-8:00

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

The “Sh’ma:” Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Temple Beth El

16225 Winkler Road

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

“The Lord’s Prayer:” Matthew 6:9-15

Iona Hope Episcopal Church

9650 Gladiolus Drive

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

“The Cow:” Qu’r’an 2:286

Quality Life Center

3210 MLK Boulevard



SPONSORED BY:

Center of Islam and Cultural Awareness, Cypress Lake United Methodist Church,
Iona Hope Episcopal Church, Temple Beth El and Temple Judea



Stewardship Update – 2020

To date 120 Parishioners have made pledges for 2020. The total amount pledged is \$348,508 with 46 pledges remaining the same, 51 pledges increasing and 9 pledges decreasing. There are also 14 new pledges! It should also be noted that 173 Parishioners do not pledge but contribute regularly and 23 Parishioners stopped pledging during the year.

We hope to receive \$16,492 in additional pledges and are working to meet the Vestry Spending Plan of \$365,000. Many thanks to all who pledged and have helped Iona-Hope to achieve its vision and mission.

Coupled with your Time and Talent pledges which support our operations, we appear to be headed for a successful year.

Again, many thanks to all who helped with this effort. You do make a difference.

Patrick Hunt - Stewardship

Women's Breakfast Group—

We would love to have you join us at Eggcetera on 16230 Summerlin Road Tuesday mornings at 8:30 A.M. We have such a wonderful time, good conversation and great fellowship. It's a great way to start the day. Please join us. Just come, no need for a reservation or any preparation. If you like, read the day's Forward Day by Day selection. We look forward to having you.

Men's Breakfast Club

Just a reminder: The Men's Breakfast Club is meeting every single Thursday at 8:30 A.M. at Eggcetera on 16230 Summerlin Road - solving the problems of the world and having a few laughs. We are eating breakfasts our wives and significant others won't allow us to have at home.



Fats, Oils & Sweets

- Jelly and jam, Honey
- Sugar
- Mayonnaise
- Vegetable oil
- Syrup
- Salad dressing

Milk, Yogurt & Cheese

- Infant formula
- Powdered milk
- Instant breakfast drinks
- Canned and boxed pudding

Meat, Poultry, Fish, Dry Beans & Nuts

- Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken
- Canned Beef Stew
- Bean soups
- Canned or dried beans, Baked beans
- Canned Chili
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Nuts

Vegetables

- Canned Vegetables, Vegetable Soup
- Canned Tomato products
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Baby Food Vegetables
- V-8 Juice

Fruits

- Canned Fruit, Raisins, Applesauce
- Dried Fruits
- Baby Food Fruit
- Fruit Leather (100% fruit)
- Canned & Boxed 100% Juice

Bread, Cereal, Rice & Pasta

- Rice and rice mixes
- Canned Pastas
- Noodle mixes, Dry noodles and pastas
- Macaroni and Cheese Mix
- Cold Cereals
- Bran Cereal Shredded Wheat
- Infant Cereal
- Hot Cereal Mixes, Oatmeal
- Bread & Muffin Mixes
- Pancake Mix
- Whole-Grain Crackers
- Granola Bars
- Graham Crackers
- Flour





KEEP CALM AND GO THRIFT SHOPPING

The Iona-Hope One More time Thrift Store provides affordable quality clothing, shoes and accessories, housewares, furniture, Knick knacks, books, works of art and more. Proceeds from the store benefit many organizations in our local area.

The thrift shop is run by an active group of dedicated volunteers. The shop is always seeking volunteers who can commit at least three and a half hours a week to help with a list of various tasks.

Our Thrift Shop accepts donations of gently-used items.

We always need people to volunteer helping to sort and price. Call Cindy at 239-489-3910 to volunteer for a 3 hour shift, either 10:00 to 1:00 or 1:00 to 4:00.



What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.



CHURCH LIFE

If you have access to an android phone, I-phone, computer or tablet you can download the church life app. With ACS Church Life™, you have instant access to the contacts and events in Iona-Hope's Access ACS™ databases anytime, anywhere, from your mobile phone, tablet or computer. You can

- ◆ View more member profile data with additional fields and better photo viewing.
- ◆ Look up phone numbers, addresses, and emails for each person in our church directory database.
- ◆ Look up your contribution records and access your statements.
- ◆ Easily add contact information to your phone's contact list.
- ◆ Send a text or call a contact while viewing their information from within Church Life™.
- ◆ Pull up directions and a map for home visits.

This is totally confidential and you will need a username and password to access this program. Please call Marnie in the church office if you would like to set up access to this program or click on the direct link in our Friday email.



What Service do you go to?

Typically, this is one of the most frequent sayings when you meet someone at church for the first time.

Iona-Hope is in the process of updating our parishioner records and we would like this information to be part of our published directory.

Please contact the church office or email office@ionahope.org with your name and the service time you attend and we can begin updating our records.

Wed. 9:30 a.m. Sat. 5:00 p.m. Sun. 8:00 a.m.
Sun. 9:30 a.m.



JOIN US BECOME A MEMBER

I Want To Be A Member of Iona-Hope

One of the great joys of ministry at Iona-Hope is when you approach us and say that you want to become a member. Membership in The Episcopal Church can seem a bit complicated, but we assure you that there is a place for you as a member.

Types of Membership

Prospect: This means that you have not indicated a desire to be a member. If you have completed a yellow card and/or made a financial contribution, you will be listed as a prospect and be placed in our parish directory.

Baptized Member: If you were baptized in another church or denomination that baptizes in the name of the Trinity, you can register with Iona-Hope as a baptized member. This membership indicates that you want this to be your spiritual home. It is hoped (not required) that all adult baptized members will be confirmed.

Confirmed Communicant: If you were confirmed by a bishop in The Episcopal Church you can transfer your membership to Iona-Hope as a confirmed communicant. Additionally, if you were confirmed by a bishop in the Roman Catholic or Evangelical Lutheran Churches, you can be received as a confirmed communicant by a bishop in The Episcopal Church. Confirmed communicants are full members who have made a “mature commitment to Christ” with laying on of hands by the bishop. You have voting privileges and can stand for election to the vestry.

Sojourner: This is a special category for Iona-Hope and includes people who want to maintain their membership at another congregation but make Iona-Hope their spiritual home while in Fort Myers. You may be a prospect or member, according to the categories above.

We hope that this information is helpful to you. Mother Suzy and Fr. Ray are happy to talk with you about membership at Iona-Hope. If you have not been baptized and want to consider this, please be in touch with us. You can call us at 239-454-4778.

Ray+

COLUMBARIUM INFORMATION

What is a columbarium?

A columbarium is a structure that is comprised of a group of compartments (known as “niches”) designed to repose cremation urns. Each niche can accommodate two urns.

The columbarium is retained within a wall (known as a housing structure) that is constructed of building materials complementary to the existing architecture of the church, allowing the project to look as if it is an intended part of the physical plant.

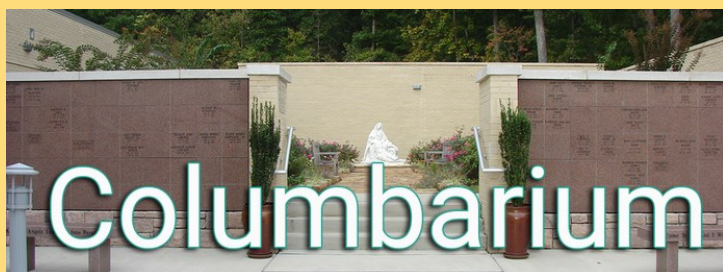
What are the benefits of a church columbarium?

Creating a columbarium ministry at Iona-Hope will allow us to fulfill the centuries-old obligation of serving from baptism to death. As the rite of baptism welcomed members into the church community, the centuries-old rite of Christian burial offered congregants a final homecoming and provided comfort to the living, with the knowledge their loved ones were near their spiritual gathering place. A columbarium will revive this churchyard tradition.

- It is a visible sign that the church cares for its members.
- It provides comfort to the family having a memorial to their deceased loved ones at the church.
- It provides a more favorable option as compared to other methods – it is economical, theologically sound and environmentally friendly.
- Offers a convenient way to handle pre-need concerns, relieving the surviving family of difficult decisions.

In addition to meeting these needs a columbarium ministry will strengthen ties between church and family. Family members are more likely to maintain their connection to the church, as visitations are now made easier. No longer will they have to pack up the station wagon and drive to a secular, often distant cemetery to visit a loved one’s final resting place. The family can visit and reflect before or after service.

This ministry unites the church, both past and present. Those who have come before us are once again part of the church and the entire community of faith can join in celebrating Christmas service, Easter sunrise service, weekly Sabbath services as well as weddings and other significant events.



More information and pricing will be announced in future bulletins and newsletters.

Parish Nurse

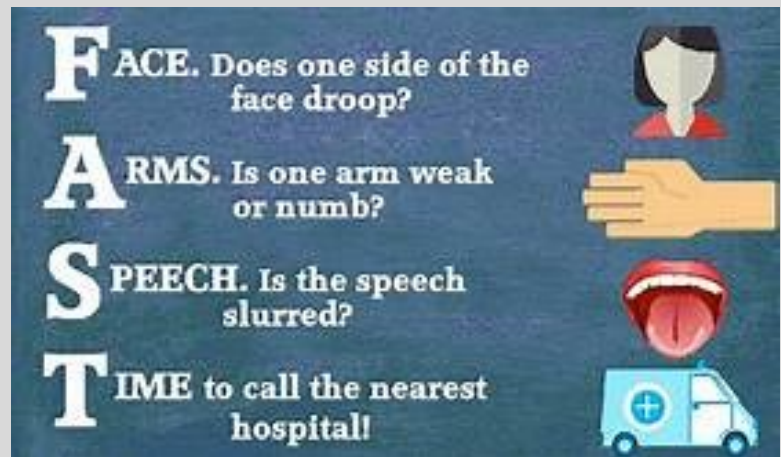


With February comes Valentine’s Day and all things of the heart. The American Heart Association has long dubbed February as *Heart Health Awareness* month and so we turn our attention to matters of keeping our cardiovascular system healthy.

The heart association shares simple but helpful reminders about what to watch for in symptoms of heart attack and stroke.



F. A. S. T. is an easy way to remember the sudden signs and symptoms of a stroke.



What is Stroke?

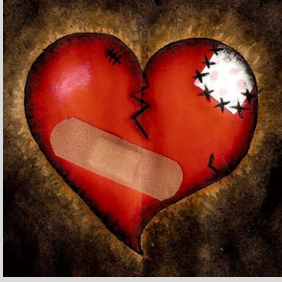
Stroke is a disease that affects the arteries leading to and within the brain. It is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States.

A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain either bursts, ruptures or is blocked by a clot. As a result, the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs and pieces of the brain die.

Stroke Risk Factors

Approximately 80 percent of strokes can be prevented. Though some stroke risk factors are uncontrollable, such as age and race, other risk factors are in your control and making small lifestyle changes can reduce your stroke risk. For example, hypertension, which is the leading risk factor, can be controlled by eating a healthy diet, regularly physical activity, not smoking, and by taking prescribed medications. The American Heart Association identifies seven factors to control for ideal health. Life’s Simple 7: be active, control cholesterol, eat a healthy diet, manage blood pressure, maintain a healthy weight, control blood sugar and don’t smoke.

Timely detection and action is key to successful treatment for both heart attack and stroke. Always err on the side of caution and seek treatment early. To learn more about stroke, visit StrokeAssociation.org.



Matters of the heart are not always physical in nature. The eyes of our heart are the window to our innermost self. All of us have known, in one way or another, the heaviness of heart that accompanies disappointment, tragedy or loss. We most certainly have also known those times when we have felt our hearts would burst with joy or excitement. As we tend to those needs of our hearts we seek our God who is in the midst of our joys and our sorrows, He who has searched us and known us through and through. We cling to His promise that He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds and that He will be the strength of our

hearts and our portion forever. (Ps 147:3, 73:26)

Blessings and good health, Happy Valentine's Day!

Julie Vergin Parish Nurse parishnurse@ionahope.org



PRAYER GROUP—Wednesday, Feb. 5th **Wednesday, February 5th**

Prayer Group meets the first Wednesday of every month at 9 - 9:30 a.m. in the Church. Please remember our Wednesday morning service of healing and communion continues each Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. at the back of the Church by the River Jordan.

Everyone is welcome. If you have a prayer request that you would like the group to include in their prayers, please let the office know or Mother Suzy. This is a smaller, quieter more intimate service that offers healing prayers and communion.

Prayer

Home and Hospital Visits

A reminder to everyone, If you are admitted to a Lee Memorial hospital and wish a visit from the clergy, at registration, make sure that they list you as Episcopalian, Iona-Hope Episcopal Church. Please call, or have someone else call to notify our office as soon as possible at 239-454-4778. If you are unable to do this, unfortunately we don't have a way of knowing you are in the hospital.

Also, if you are home and unable to attend Church, or know someone who is ill at home, and would like to have a visit and communion, please call the Church office and they will let the clergy and the pastoral care team know and we'll schedule a visit.

Spiritual support is important in the healing process and you are important to us. We are happy to visit, pray and offer the sacraments. We welcome requests for prayers even if you prefer not to have a visit. Just call or e mail the office at 239-454-4778 or office@ionahope.org

The ministry of the people at Iona-Hope
is supported by the church staff.



Vestry

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith,

Bishop

The Rev. Ray Buchanan

Rector

The Rev. Suzy Post

Associate Priest

Mr. Loren J. Strickland,

Music Director

Ms. Marnie Ike, Office

Cyndi Farmer, Office

Mr. Joseph Mulino - Senior Warden

Mr. Ray Zentis—Junior Warden

Ms. Andi Jerger,

Mr. Bob Earl, Mr. Robin Mills, Mrs. Patty
Ingram, Mrs. Margo Farrara and

Mr. Steve Walsh and Mrs. Debbie Prather

Mrs. Debbie Prather - **Treasurer**

Mr. John Thomas— **Assistant Treasurer.**

Mrs. Paula Paquette- **Clerk of the Vestry**

IONA-HOPE



Episcopal
Church



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next meeting of
the **Vestry** will be

Tuesday, February 11th at 5:00
P.M.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Finance Team Meeting will be on
Tuesday, February 11th at 11:30
a.m.

Small Groups:

Acolytes
Al-Anon
Alcoholics Anonymous
Altar Guild
Book Club
Bridge Club
Bridge Club
Choir
Children's Ministries
Friday Faithful
Greeters
Habitat for Humanity
Harlem Heights Hunger Ministry
Hospitality
Justice Ministry
Men's Breakfast Club
Newcomer Ministry
Office Angels
Parish Nurse
Pastoral Ministry
Quad Squad
Readers
Shawl Ministry
Spanish Class
Spirituality
Supper Club
Technology
Thrift Shop
Welcoming Ministry
Women's Breakfast
Wonderful Wednesday-Adults

Leaders:

Margo Farrara

Robert Hunt
Sheryl Winters
Diane Shorey
Charlie Champlin
Loren Strickland
Barbra Bowman
David Rauppius
Ken Ingram
Bruce Moden
Deb Studybaker
Ardis Uberti
Steve Walsh
Ray Zentis

Bill Shaw
Julie Vergin
RuthAnn North
Nancy Martins
Marnie Ike
Connie Walsh
Melida Escobar
Paula Paquette
Ardis Uberti
Michael Cunningham
Eileen Carrara

Gail Hamlett
Bruce George

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