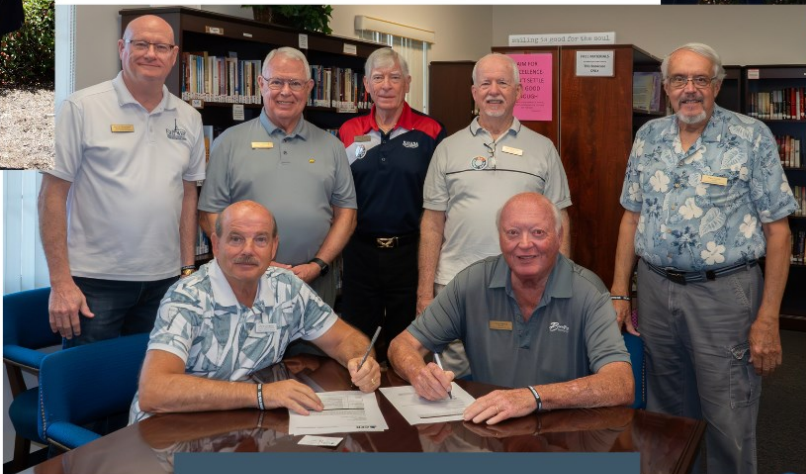


# NEWSFLASH

MAY 2024



*For I know the plans that I have for you...*

Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established  
Proverbs 16:3

FORWARD  
INITIATIVE



*Future of Fairway*



**The God of heaven Himself will help us succeed; therefore, we will arise and build! We will trust His Word and believe in the Sovereign Lord who always keeps His promises.**

**Nehemiah 2:20**





**Ministry Staff**

**PREACHING MINISTER**

Butch Gastfield

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Michael Coppock

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Bob Harris

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Tom Beckner

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Jim Jacobs

**CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

Chris Callahan

**ASSISTANT CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:**

Michael Easter

**Office Staff**

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Leigh Ann Johnsey

**ADMIN. ASSISTANT:** Jeanne Chairez

**RECEPTIONIST:** Mary Fancher

**MAINT/GROUNDS SUPERVISOR:**

Bob Naramore

**ELDERS**

Harry Harris (Chairman)

Roger Brown

Harv Buckner

Fred Holland

Paul Cook

**DEACONS**

Chairman: Michael Bolter

Vice Chairman: John Keeler

Secretary: Bernie Gattozzi

Jerry Maddox

Larry Lambert

Bill McAlister

Tom Mansdoerfer

Billy Simpson

Gerald Raver

Paul Bushman

Greg Domsic

Dave York

Paul Wertz

Mike Waters

Tom Ross

Mickey Smith

Jerry Heller

Carl Roberts

Rick McKinney

Lou Delucio

John Alessandrine

**FAIRWAY SCORE CARD**

**March Averages**

**New Members since January 1, 2024 = 38**

**Avg Worship Attendance (5 wks) = 915**

(5 Week Avg. for April 2023 = 1026)

**Online Worship Attendance (5 wks) = 63**

**Avg. Offerings Received (5 Wks) = \$ 27,415**

**WELCOME**  
new members

Budd Clifford

Bob & Carol Blakely

Susan Pritchard

Pat Johnson

Elle Shepherd

Vallie Strednak

Pat Johnson

Debi Behm

**ATTENTION**  
All sign-ups for Fairway Activities and Events are available on our website, and at the kiosks located in the Gathering Hall.



**MOVIE NIGHT**  
"Heaven Sent"  
Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Snacks F. Hall, 6 pm  
Movie W. Ctr., 6:30 pm

*Prayer Shawl*



**Tuesdays**  
**Classroom E**  
**11am—12pm**  
following Tuesday  
Morning Bible Study

Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm  
Classroom C-D

Bring your favorite  
game or come learn a  
new game - bring a  
few snacks to share!



**GRIEF SHARE**  
*You don't have to grieve alone.*

**Now—June 19**

**Wednesdays,**

**2pm—4pm, Classroom C-D**

If you, a friend, or neighbor have lost a loved one, GriefShare is open to all who are grieving. Sign up (recommended but not required) at Guest Services or on our website.

**Prayer Warriors**

*Coming together to pray & intercede*

**Meet in the Library**  
**20 min before Services**

**The Library is no longer accepting book donations.**



**Women's Creative Card Ministry**  
**1st Thursday of every month**  
**10 am - 12 pm**

Supplies needed: Cutter, Scissors, and Adhesive. Supplies are available for newcomers.

Sign up at the Women's Ministry Table if you plan to attend.

**Next: June 6, 2024**  
**Classroom C-D**



Photos for the Online Church Directory will be taken in the lobby of Door D. Occasionally Saturdays will be available as well.

**There will not be pictures taken this month.**

**NEXT: JUNE 2**



# ELDERS

## Elders Meeting Minutes April 15, 2024

The April Elder's meeting was called to order with the following elders present: Harry Harris, Fred Holland, Harv Buckner, Paul Cook and Roger Brown. Presenters attending: the Preaching Minister, Butch Gastfield; Church Administrator, Chris Callahan; and Chairman of the Deacons, Michael Bolter.

Harry presented the opening meditation and prayer.

The March minutes were accepted and approved.

The Deacon's report was presented by Michael. He mentioned that we have a small number of deacons who are dealing with some medical issues and he asked the elders to lift them up in prayer. Michael shared that the Deacons have covered all the events over the past month. There was a discussion of protocols for deacon coverage at each of the entrance doors prior to services. We continue to strive to provide a cheerful and inviting welcome for our members and guests as they come into our building and worship center. The elders continue to recognize the dedicated support provided by the deacons in every aspect of our church ministries.

The Administrative report was presented by Chris. The March financial report was approved. Chris shared the current status of the Forward Initiative campaign. He also shared details regarding funds on hand and funds needed for Phase 1 of the building project. Chris shared the year-end report from Steeple Accounting Services reflecting a very good assessment result. The report was accepted and approved. It was noted that the FORWARD Update presentation is available in its entirety, to include the questions and answers periods, on the church website for all those who were not able to attend or who desire to review the presentation again.

The Preaching Minister's Report was presented by Butch. In addition, he submitted the monthly written reports provided by each of the Associate Ministers. Butch noted three baptisms during the month of March and the start of two new Discipleship Groups as a result of the last First Step program. Butch also performed a wedding and participated in our church's 25th Anniversary and Groundbreaking Celebration held on April 7th. Coordination and planning work for upcoming Bible studies and themed classes continues. We are expecting a thrilling announcement in the very near future concerning a minister for our church plant. The Vietnam Veterans Celebration held on March 26 was a huge success. The Easter Good Friday service and the weekend services were extremely well attended with favorable responses received from many visitors and members. With two Senior Health and Welfare presentations, well-attended with excellent feedback, March and early April have provided many opportunities

for service, education, worship and excitement for the future.

Under Old Business, discussion centered on the organization, oversight, and coordination with Florida Church Planters in relation to the Fairway church plant. Feedback will be provided at the next scheduled elders meeting in May.

Under New Business, discussion was introduced by Harv about building security during our service hours and regular events. Fred shared details based on his experience with school districts and how they handled security. Chris shared that we may explore putting a security team together to monitor services and events. More to follow on this subject.

The next monthly Elders meeting is scheduled for May 20th.

## Construction Disclaimer

Please be advised that beginning the **weekend of May 11th and 12th**, our parking lot availability will change and continue through our 15 month construction project.

**Only the North and West entrances to the building will be available during the construction period.**

- Do not enter any of the fenced or restricted areas of the parking lot or building.
- Flexibility with the parking lot changes.
  - We are asking members to come in their golf carts, if possible, to save parking spots for cars. Please park in the grass areas.
  - If anyone has a 4 or 6 passenger golf cart that the church could use on Sundays only during the 15-month construction, please contact Chris Callahan. This will allow us to provide transportation from parking lot to church entrance for individuals needing assistance .
  - If you currently have a Handicap Permit, please pick up a green Handicap placard for your mirror at the Guest Services Desk.
  - Please keep in mind that there is a Saturday evening service at 6:00 pm.
- Flexibility with scheduling classrooms & Events
  - There may be adjustments that have to be made on a weekly basis.
  - Please contact the office and fill out an event form for all reservations.

On behalf of the Elders and the staff, it is our desire to fulfill all your ministry needs. We appreciate your patience and flexibility during this 15-month construction process.

Christopher Callahan  
Church Administrator



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your support, encouragement, and prayers for the past 18 months as we searched for a lead minister for our church plant. In partnership with Florida Church Planters, I am excited to report that we have our lead minister!!!

David Miller, along with his wife Dimara, just finished their 'Assessment' in Virginia and received a strong recommendation to move forward.



David & Dimara Miller

We will have many opportunities to meet David and Dimara over the next few months. David will be visible in our weekend services, possibly teaching some, and he is also scheduled to preach all three services at Fairway on Memorial Day weekend, May 25th and 26th.

As David continues to prayerfully seek God's guidance regarding the specific location of the church plant, let's keep praying for God to do great things.....amazing things.....even more than we can ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20).

Please let me know if you have any questions about this pivotal time in the life of Fairway and the Kingdom of God!!! You can pick up a copy of David and Dimara's biographies at Guest Services.

Jim Jacobs  
Associate Minister of Church Planting

### Wednesday Night Dinner & Study

May 8, 2024

Dinner starts at 5:00 pm; Study at 6:00 pm

Meatballs & Sausage, Pasta Salad, Garlic Texas Toast, Dessert

Sign up on the kiosks or on our website



**REMINDER... IF YOU HAVE A MEETING OR EVENT AT FAIRWAY—PLEASE MAKE SURE THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED OFF WHEN YOUR MEETING IS OVER.**

### M.O.M. (Military Outreach Ministry)

Come join us every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at Harbor Chase at 1 pm and every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at Lady Lake Senior Living at 10 am as we celebrate the veterans residing in assisted living facilities. The veterans appreciate and look forward to time together. You may contact the church office about how to get involved or for more information. All are welcome to join us.

# DEACONS

## SERVANTS OF THE CHURCH

### Serve Boldly

Serving boldly involves stepping forward with courage, even when it feels uncomfortable or challenging. For many of us an opportunity of service includes feelings of hesitation or even fear. "Can I do this?" "Am I good enough?" Serving isn't focused on perfection, just participation. Serving is about embracing our unique gifts and talents and using them to strengthen our faith through serving at Fairway.

The Bible provides many examples of ordinary individuals that served with boldness. Moses, Esther, Stephen, Noah, and Deborah each boldly stepped forward and let their faith guide them. Serving boldly doesn't mean we won't face problems or challenges. Many biblical figures faced significant challenges along their journey.

Service isn't reserved for just the few. In each of us is a call to serve and contribute to the church. Serving boldly is moving beyond our comfort zones and offering not just our ability, but our availability.

So, let us be the hands that serve by stepping forward with boldness and filling one of the many unmet needs at Fairway. Hospitality, greeters, ushers, visitation, discipleship, parking lot, special events set up and take down, cards and letters, building maintenance and lock up. When we serve, we do more than just fill a role, we display our faith and inspire others as well.

Find how you can serve boldly in one of the many ministries at Fairway by going to [www.fairwaycc.org](http://www.fairwaycc.org), click on *Events*, *Upcoming Events*, *Special Events*, *Volunteer Sign Up*, or simply use the kiosk at the Guest Services Desk.

To put your skills and talents to work in other ways contact the church office at 352-259-9305



### MAH JONGG EVERY MONDAY

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Classroom E

Janet Suttle, Coordinator



**WOMEN'S MINISTRY LUNCHEON**  
**"Love in Bloom"**

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sign up no later than May 12<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of Every Month  
**Women's Fellowship Coffee**  
Next: June 5, 2024  
Rm. C-D at 10:00 am

Ladies, come join us for a time of coffee and fellowship. This is a great way to embrace new faces and share the warmth of sisters in Christ here at Fairway. Please sign up.



**MEN'S**

**Fellowship Breakfast**

Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Fellowship Hall  
8:00 am

**SIGN UP TODAY!**



**Encounters of 1<sup>st</sup> Impressions Ministry**



I had the honor of visiting with a very talented and gracious female guest. I met her husband on the way out to play golf. She was very welcoming and invited me in and offered to sing a few hymns, which she sang beautifully. She said that she enjoyed Fairway very much and felt that she had been led to our church by the Holy Spirit. What a blessing it is to meet and welcome first time visitors.

Did you know that you can receive tax benefits through your charitable giving? We encourage you to reach out to your financial advisor and inquire about making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly to the church, using assets such as stocks, dividends, IRAs, and more.

**IMPORTANT:** When sending your contribution, please ensure it includes both your name and the designated fund (General Fund, Missions, or Forward Initiative Building Campaign). You may inform Administrator Chris Callahan personally or via email when such a distribution is in progress.

Should you have any questions regarding this opportunity, feel free to contact Chris Callahan at the church office: 352-259-9305.

We extend our sincere gratitude for your love and support of this ministry. Because of your partnership we are able to spread the message of Christ and fulfill our Go-Sow-Grow discipleship mission.



**FORWARD INITIATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**

- ✓ Construction contract with Collage for Phase 1 signed, and
- ✓ \$3.5M Loan contract with Christian Financial Resources signed!

"Thank you" to all our **FORWARD** pledge partners and members who have made this possible! Upon signing the construction contract, we now have a 60-day window to give the "go-ahead" to finish Phase 2 – offices, chapel, and fellowship updates, saving approximately \$250K. An extra \$1.5M boost is needed for Phase 2!

If you haven't yet partnered with us through our **FORWARD** Initiative to help us expand our ministry opportunities, please visit the **FORWARD** link at [www.fairwaycc.org](http://www.fairwaycc.org) or stop by our Guest Services desk for a pledge card.





## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tricia Masters  
Ray Kuzemchak
- 2 Bob Reid  
Doris Hill  
Sue Heller  
Barb Masten  
Dawn Roccanti
- 3 Dottie Henriksen  
Bill Coderre  
BJ Patterson  
Mary Koepke
- 4 Bill Heller  
Vicky Gaumer  
Fred Supry  
Jill Dexter  
Adriana Schimming
- 6 Rich Barrett  
Gail Appel  
Jim Longley
- 7 Randy Martinez  
Bob Patterson  
Al Parko  
LaVonne Steves
- 8 Myra Yates  
Rita Taylor
- 9 Marilyn Ervin  
Larry Lambert  
Helen Supry  
Ray Morrison
- 11 Suzanne Sears  
Sharon Zarse
- 12 Jay Miglore  
Dawn Kammer  
Marjorie Wrenne  
Anita Dougherty  
Kevin White
- 14 Abie Olambiwonnu  
Helve Massakas  
Norma Shafer
- 15 Frank Philipovich  
Denny Wright
- 16 John Sears  
Jennifer (Burch) Marshall  
Ted Texer
- 17 Shari Lowrance  
Susan Prince
- 18 Jackie Stuckey Texer  
David Roth
- 19 Tillie Kleckner

- Art Meyers  
Rachael Marshall  
Elaine Cunningham
- 20 Greg Stewart  
Vaughan Atkins
- 23 Lynn Kuschmann  
Joanie Hutchinson
- 24 Kim Hanscom  
Barb Mastry  
Paul Olsen
- 25 Ann Vogel  
Karl Schramm
- 26 Fred Keller
- 27 William Rogers
- 28 Dee Watson  
Bea Howell  
Malan Hepper
- 29 Peggy Hunt  
Roger Ignatius  
Sandi Houdeshell  
Gary Jennings
- 30 Bettie Kroener  
Carl Roberts  
David Trumbull  
Dan Beauchamp
- 31 Yvonne Fagin



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Don & Beth Gott  
Roger & Susan Ignatius
- 2 Joe & Jan Lubbehusen  
Karen & Bruce\* Doran
- 4 Jim & Juanita Gable
- 5 Gary & Debbie Gray  
Doug & Gerri Gunderson  
Mark & Karen Skirpan
- 6 Larry & Kate Dickerson
- 7 Andy & Cathy Gerolemon  
Gary & Lorinda Tritt  
John & Rebecca Alessandrine
- 8 Gary & Sandy Krumrine
- 10 Gil & Monika Mendoza
- 11 Marlene & Bill Wilkie  
BJ & Ginny Patterson
- 13 Paul & Melissa Martin
- 16 Pat & Glenda White  
Jim & Cindy Jacobs
- 17 John & Arlene Urian
- 18 Andy & Sue Molnar

- 19 Michael & Bonnie Bolter
- 20 Michael & Linda Spano
- 21 Jay & Judy Miglore  
Tom & Chrissy Ebmeyer  
Linda & Bruce\* Mazur  
Keith & Jan Robinson  
Budd & Debbie Clifford
- 24 Dick & Bonna Dohler  
Duane & Cathy Gipe
- 25 Mandy & Matthew\*  
(Gastfield) Howard
- 26 Ron & Carri Mansdoerfer  
Gene & Jeanne Boitnott  
Kenny & Nancy Griffin
- 28 John & Kay Morris  
Archie & Connie Iscrupe
- 30 Doug & Marilyn Cates  
Lorraine & Frank DeGenova



## **2024-2025**

### **Fairway At The Square Ministry**

Join us on Friday, May 3 at 10:00 AM in room CD as we discuss plans and scheduling for our outreach in The Villages Squares during Market Nights and Farmers Markets. Please contact Michael Easter or Dennis Leslie if you have any questions.



Our mission at Fairway Christian Church is to **GO** into our community, **SOW** the gospel, and **GROW** disciples to change the world!

# FORWARD

## INITIATIVE

Please visit our Forward page on the website to view Fairway's **“Forward Initiative update” presentation on our plans for the future of our church building.**

# MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>FMS= Feed My Sheep</p> <p>WM=Women's Ministry</p> <p>MM=Men's Ministry</p> <p>Pickleball</p> <p>Mon.:2pm Moyer</p> <p>Thurs.:3pm Pimlico</p>	<p><b>Office Hours</b></p> <p>Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm</p> <p>Friday 8:30am - 1:00pm</p>		<p>1</p> <p>8am—FMS</p> <p>8am—Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10am—WM Coffee</p> <p>2pm—GriefShare</p> <p>4pm—Choir</p> <p>6pm—Appalachia Missions Mtg.</p> <p>6pm—Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am—DayTrip</p> <p>9am—Bolter Mtg.</p> <p>10am—BLT Mtg.</p> <p>10am—Creative Card</p> <p>3pm—Beckner Group</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am—Fairway On The Square Mtg.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5<sup>40</sup>pm- Prayer</p> <p>6pm—Cont. Svc.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8am—Coffee Café</p> <p>8<sup>25</sup> &amp; 10am—Prayer</p> <p>8<sup>45</sup>am—Cont. Svc.</p> <p>9am—Bible Study</p> <p>NO Directory Photos</p> <p>10<sup>15</sup>am—Bible Study</p> <p>10<sup>30</sup>am—Trad. Svc.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8am—FMS</p> <p>9am—1st Impressions</p> <p>9am—Elders Mtg.</p> <p>1pm—Mahjongg</p> <p>3pm—Deacons Mtg.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8<sup>30</sup>am—Precept</p> <p>9am—WM Tues. Bible Study</p> <p>11am—Prayer Shawl</p> <p>11am—WM Adv. Brd. Mtg.</p> <p>2pm—Ukulele</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8am—FMS</p> <p>8am—Men's Bible Study</p> <p>2pm—GriefShare</p> <p>4pm—Choir</p> <p>5pm—Dinner</p> <p>6pm—Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am—Bolter Mtg.</p> <p>10am—BLT Mtg.</p> <p>1pm—Veteran Visitation @ Harbor Chase</p> <p>3pm—Visitation Mtg</p> <p>3pm—Beckner Group</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6<sup>30</sup>pm-Game Night</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5<sup>40</sup>pm- Prayer</p> <p>6pm—Cont. Svc.</p>
<p>12 <b>HAPPY Mother's DAY</b></p> <p>8am—Coffee Café</p> <p>8<sup>25</sup> &amp; 10am—Prayer</p> <p>8<sup>45</sup>am—Cont. Svc.</p> <p>9am—Bible Study</p> <p>10<sup>15</sup>am—Bible Study</p> <p>10<sup>30</sup>am—Trad. Svc.</p> <p>12pm—Missions Mtg.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8am—FMS</p> <p>9am—1st Impressions</p> <p>1pm—Mahjongg</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8<sup>30</sup>am—Precept</p> <p>9am—WM Tues. Bible Study</p> <p>11am—Prayer Shawl</p> <p>11<sup>30</sup>pm—MOM Mtg.</p> <p>2pm—Ukulele</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8am—FMS</p> <p>8am—Men's Bible Study</p> <p>2pm—GriefShare</p> <p>4pm—Choir</p> <p>6pm—Bible Study</p> <p>7pm—WM Luncheon Prep</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am—Bolter Mtg.</p> <p>10am—BLT Mtg.</p> <p>1130am—WM Luncheon</p> <p>3pm—Beckner Group</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6pm—Pre-Movie Snacks</p> <p>6<sup>30</sup>pm—Movie</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>5<sup>40</sup>pm- Prayer</p> <p>6pm—Cont. Svc.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8am—Coffee Café</p> <p>8<sup>25</sup> &amp; 10am—Prayer</p> <p>8<sup>45</sup>am—Cont. Svc.</p> <p>9am—Bible Study</p> <p>10<sup>15</sup>am—Bible Study</p> <p>10<sup>30</sup>am—Trad. Svc.</p> <p>12pm—Discipleship Group Leaders Mtg.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8am—FMS</p> <p>9am—1st Impressions</p> <p>9am—Elders Mtg.</p> <p>10am—WM June Team Mtg.</p> <p>1pm—Mahjongg</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8<sup>30</sup>am—Precept</p> <p>9am—WM Tues. Bible Study</p> <p>11am—Prayer Shawl</p> <p>2pm—Ukulele</p> <p>4pm—MM Leaders Mtg.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8am—FMS</p> <p>8am—Men's Bible Study</p> <p>2pm—GriefShare</p> <p>4pm—Choir</p> <p>6pm—Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am—Bolter Mtg.</p> <p>10am—BLT Mtg.</p> <p>3pm—Beckner Group</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10am—Veteran Visitation @Lady Lake Senior Living</p> <p>10<sup>30</sup>am—Mary Fagin Memorial Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5<sup>40</sup>pm- Prayer</p> <p>6pm—Cont. Svc.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8am—Coffee Café</p> <p>8<sup>25</sup> &amp; 10am—Prayer</p> <p>8<sup>45</sup>am—Cont. Svc.</p> <p>9am—Bible Study</p> <p>10<sup>15</sup>am—Bible Study</p> <p>10<sup>30</sup>am—Trad. Svc.</p>	<p>27 </p> <p><b>Church Office is Closed</b></p>	<p>28</p> <p>8<sup>30</sup>am—Precept</p> <p>2pm—Ukulele</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8am—Men's Bible Study</p> <p>2pm—GriefShare</p> <p>6pm—Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9am—Bolter Mtg.</p> <p>9am—Card Prep</p> <p>10am—BLT Mtg.</p> <p>10<sup>30</sup>am—WM Christmas Mtg.</p> <p>3pm—Beckner Group</p>	<p>31</p>	<p><b>Worship Services</b></p> <p><b>Contemporary</b></p> <p>Saturdays 6pm</p> <p>Sundays 8:45am</p> <p><b>Traditional</b></p> <p>Sundays 10:30am</p>

Recently in our church reception area, I had a conversation with Mary Lou Johnston. She shared how a particular event that happened shortly after she had become a member of Fairway confirmed that she had joined the right church. She has allowed me to share her story in this month's newsletter:

*"I have a praise for the people who make up Fairway Christian Church. Just after joining, I was invited to attend the Women's Newcomers Coffee. I didn't know anyone who was there on the Wednesday morning I arrived. Earlier in the week I had learned about a cancer diagnosis our daughter-in-law, Rene', had just received. I couldn't keep from thinking about her. Upon arriving, as I was getting my cup of coffee I asked a lady if there was a prayer chain at this church. She directed me to Geri Gunderson, the ministry leader of Feed My Sheep, who happened to be near the coffee area that morning. When I asked her about putting Rene' on the prayer chain, she immediately wrapped her arm around me, asked more about Rene', and then called all of the ladies who were there to gather around me to pray. As we stood in a prayer circle the ladies prayed for Rene' and for me.*

*Remember, I didn't know any of these ladies, yet they welcomed me and reached out with warmth and love. Then Geri gave me some soup to take home, a card from the Creative Card ministry, and then took me to pick out a prayer shawl, knitted by the Prayer Shawl ministry, to send to Rene'.*

*Of all the churches we have attended, never has anything like this happened! That was almost two years ago, and the welcome we've received from others who have since become my dear church sisters and friends have definitely confirmed that this is our church home! God has blessed this church with something very special and unique! My husband and I are so blessed to have found Fairway Christian Church."*

Mary Lou Johnston and her husband Bill became members of Fairway in December 2022. We're so glad they are a part of our family! This story reflects what seems to be built into so much of the Fairway family DNA – reaching out and making new people feel welcome and loved! We thank and praise God for His work in us! **We love because He first loved us!** (1 John 4:19)

Your Preacher,  
Butch Gastfield