

SPLC History of Mission 1963 to 2014 Update as of 10-31-2014

March 1963 – The Lutheran Church of America and the Board of Missions decided to survey the Golden Triangle area, consisting of Mount Dora, Eustis and Tavares Florida to determine if there was any interest in developing a Lutheran church in the area.

May 5, 1963 - Klaus O.R. Koch began mission development in the Golden Triangle area. He made more than 1500 door-to-door visitations. Pastor Koch moved into a parsonage (provided by the Board of American Missions) located in Belle Ayres Estates, Mount Dora. (The parsonage mortgage of \$16,618 was transferred to the congregation in Jan. 1965.)

January 12, 1964 - 59 people interested in forming a new church met in Tavares Community Center.

January 26, 1964- First worship service held in the center with 107 attending. They met there for the next 4 1/2 years.

April 5, 1964- Sunday Church School was organized. 22 attended the opening session.

May 24, 1964 - The first 53 persons signed charter on "Charter Sunday." (Charter signing continued up to the official organization date of the church.)

September 27, 1964- A parcel of property 450' X 293' approximately 3.19 acres in the Golden Heights subdivision site off US Hwy 441 alt. was approved for purchase by the Board of Missions.

Nov. 22nd 1964 was closing date of the property purchase.

January 4, 1965 – Mr. George Innes, Regional Counselor for Church Commission on Stewardship, met with the planning committee to propose the "Goal Budget" and plan for a first every member visit.

January 24, 1965 – St. Philip held its first Business meeting. The election of the first Council members and the adaption of the "Goal Budget" were completed.

January 31, 1965 - The congregation was officially organized with 47 confirmed and 16 children members. (This is the 100th L.C.A. church in Florida.) The first church council was installed.

March 9, 1965 - First recording of Lutheran Church Women organization with Mrs. William (Elva) Mursch, president. This "group 1" would become the Esther Circle in 1970. The Naomi, Ruth, and Martha circles were cited as active by 1973. (By 2005, the Naomi and Ruth circles have disbanded. The Helping Hands Society began in this same general time period of the 70's and still is active in 2011.)

May 30, 1965 - Klaus O.R. Koch was installed as our first pastor.

November 1965 - Building Committee Appointed.

Under the direction of Jack E. Stabley, York, PA a campaign for Capital Funds will be undertaken, by St. Philip Lutheran Church from August 9 - 22. Mr. Stabley is a Capitol Funds Counselor for the Lutheran Laymen's Movement for Stewardship of The Lutheran Church in America.

August 13, 1967 - Groundbreaking ceremony. (Nils M. Schweizer, AIA, architect.) The August capital fund drive yielded a 2-year member commitment, from 33 family's, of \$11,252.

May 5, 1968 - First service in new church building.

October 6, 1968 - Dedication of new church building. (Cost: \$95,500.)

June 18, 1972 - Installation of our second pastor, George Tilmer Willis. Membership records listed 169 baptized (114 communing) members.

December 1973 - Membership record: 225 baptized (179 confirmed).

Jan. 19, 1975 - A new constitution was ratified, reflecting St. Philip's individuality.

April 27, 1975 - Groundbreaking for Parish Hall. (Architect Louis George of Leesburg; builder: Bob Carbaugh Builders, Inc. of Tavares).

December 1975 - Membership records: 247 baptized (203 confirmed) members.

January 25, 1976 - Dedication of the Parish Hall. (Cost: approx. \$62,000.)

February 1976 - Cub Scout Pack 256 sponsored by SPLC begun, in Parish Hall.

Summer 1976 - The Helping Hands Society of S.P. donate funds, along with funds in memory of William Mursch, to buy an institutional style piano for the Parish Hall. (Cost: \$1400.)

1978 - The new Lutheran Book of Worship published and purchased for use at SPLC.

November 14, 1978 - The Sarah Circle was newly formed at home of Clara Schmidt. (This circle still exists in Jan. 2005 but is preparing to merge with Martha Circle in the next month as attendance is diminishing.)

December 1979 - Membership records indicate 313 baptized (276 confirmed) members.

May 1981 - An Allen organ was purchased and dedicated. (Cost: \$13,350, from Streep's Organ Co.)

1982 — Noted in news article: Membership is over 350 members; parish hall used by Cub Scouts, Webelos, Boy Scouts, Mid-Florida Cadet Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, and Mt. Dora Historical Society yearly meetings.

May 1982 - SPLC chosen to be one of seven congregations (from over 6,000 nationally) to participate in a special project on Aging Ministry.

April 18-May 9, 1982 - Congregation met for worship in the Tavares Civic Center during period of renovations to the Church Nave.

Summer 1982 - Conan Rudd was hired as organist.

September 1982 - In Louisville, KY, three main Lutheran bodies (ALC, LCA, and AELC) voted to merge by 1987.

January 30, 1983 - Celebration of our 18th anniversary and dedication of the completed renovations of the Nave. (Cost of renovations: approx. \$18,500. Details of work: adding more pews, removing original folding walls, installing the stained glass windows, replacing and repositioning the pulpit, making room for a choir loft).

January 27, 1985 - 20th anniversary of the congregation celebrated. The mission focus for this year was World Hunger appeal, with projects throughout all age groups of the congregational life.

November 29, 1985 - Daily Commercial news article introduces Bobbie Pierce, song writer and math/science teacher living in Tavares. Bobbie wrote "Saint Philip's Hymn" in 1976 (included in our 40th anniversary congregational music and worship.)

1986 - Expansion of Parish Hall to include church office space, meeting space, and kitchen improvements. (Cost: \$126,060.)

January 1, 1988 - The LCA - ALC - AELC merger took effect to create the new (and present) Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

May 1989 - Rev. Gary D. Logan began his interim ministry as Pastor at St. Philip.

1990 - Sharon Redding was hired as organist. She served until March 2001. George (Chip) Chernault was hired as interim organist when Sharon left.

July 8, 1990 - Pastor Gary D. Logan was installed. The membership records indicate approx. 350 baptized members

1990 - Rev. George Becker began serving as Visitation Pastor (until March, 2000).

1997 - Vicar Nancy Zuckerman joined Pastor Logan. During her time, a contemporary 6:30 pm service was added, called Sunday Nite-Lite. The service wasn't well attended

and was cancelled within a year. The vicars from 1997 - 2000 were each supported by St. Philip members with a salary of \$900 per month, plus housing.

1998 or 1999 - The Sun Lake Circle of Lutheran Women was formed to meet the needs of women living in the Rt. 452 area called Sun Lake.

1998 - Vicar Patrick Finley joined Pastor Logan.

1999 - Vicar Anna Figueiro joined Pastor Logan.

July 1999 - The Youth attend ELCA National Youth Gathering in St. Louis.

2000 - Vicar Afrah Wasaf joined Pastor Logan.

2000 - The building plans for a Family Life Center were approved.

October 2000 - Rev. Sam Goins began serving as Visitation Pastor (to 12/31/2010).

November 2000 - Pastor Logan accepted a call from Dade City. Pastor Pam Wellons became interim pastor.

April 15, 2001 - (Easter Sunday) Ground breaking ceremony for the Family Life Center. Mark Cook Builders began construction soon afterward.

June 2001 — Dr. Don Pruitt was hired and became organist, serving until Feb. 2002, when Chip Chernault again served as interim organist.

September 2001 - Pastor Bruce M. Hobert accepted call to be our fourth pastor.

November 14, 2001 - Pastor Bruce Hobert was installed.

June 6, 2002 - Betty Chernault was hired as organist and choir director,

January 13, 2002 - The Family Life Center was dedicated. (Cost: approx. \$713,839, including site improvement expenses. Other repairs were concurrently made on office space and church roof, for an additional outlay of \$34,675.) A large estate endowment from Violet Patterson, along with other endowments and funds raised, cleared the FLC debt. No mortgage for this remains.

April 2002 - The Shepherding Program began, to increase the caring climate among St. Philip members. (This replaced the efforts by a Stephen Ministry program assumed prior to 1995.)

August 2002 - The Mutual Ministry Committee was formed.

October 2002 - Bethel Seventh Day Adventist congregation began rental of our Parish Hall for weekly worship services (presently continuing)

April 2003 - Evangelism/Outreach canvassed 980 local households.

Summer 2003 - The new SPLC website was created.

July 2003- Seven St. Philip Youth and youth leader Val Neuhart attended National Youth Gathering in Atlanta.

December 2003 - Membership records (after appropriate removals of non-participatory individuals) indicate a total of baptized members as 423, and total confirmed members as 346. The average attendance per week in 2003 was 217.

March 2004 - Repairs (begun in December) from termite damage to the Parish Hall (plus further office renovation & residing the Sanctuary) are completed. (Cost; approx. \$144,770).

January, 2005 - Currently, the FLC and the Parish Hall are used by the following community groups: Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, TOPS, Civil War Round Table, Tavares Boat Club, Lake Forest Homeowners Assn, Sylvan Shores Homeowners Assn, Chain Stitchers Embroidery Club, and Jackson Hewitt Tax Service training.

January 30, 2005 - Effective on this date, Ms. Val Neuhart, secretary/office manager since April of 1998 and youth director, resigns her jobs at SPLC to assume a secretarial position at Synod offices in Tampa. A farewell reception to honor her work here will take place on annual meeting day, Feb. 6, 2005.

January 16, 2005 to February 6, 2005 – St. Philip celebrated its 40th anniversary with the theme of “Building a Firm Foundation.” This included guest preachers, receptions, and a celebration banquet to affirm the foundations of faith, grace, love, and trust.

March 2005 - Marsha Lanahan is hired as Church Secretary to replace Val Neuhart.

August 2005 - SPLC began support for Missionary Debbie Ward, Gamboa Union Church, Gamboa, Panama (Canal Zone)

January 2006 - A new organizational structure was approved by the congregation establishing a Spiritual Life Ministry Team of three Elders and the Church Council was reduced from 13 members to 7

March 2006 - The St Philip Youth Group assisted in the flag pole dedication service to complete Matthew Brunold's Eagle Scout Project.

April 2006 - A Senior Ministry Inventory with forty-three members participating was completed to make more informed decisions about future ministries for SPLC.

May 2006 – A new exterior, lighted Church sign was installed. A donation of \$1,000 was received from Matthew Brunold's Eagle Scout Project to assist in the funding of the project.

January 2007 - Weekly and monthly Bible studies were conducted using the AKALOO series and Biblical themes.

February 2007 - A computer and technology support team was formed and a website was put on line.

April 2007 - The mortgage on the 2004 building repairs was retired and a celebration event was held.

April 2007 - Church leadership participated in a two day session to improve communication and explore the congregations strengths and challenges. The current vision and mission statements were produced.

June 2007 - A new roof was put on the utility building.

August 2007 - Vincent Giambelluca became the new church custodian replacing Randall Hall who resigned.

September 2007 - 96 members participated in an educational program "Embracing All" to rediscover how to establish and build long-lasting relationships.

January 2008 - Leadership set goals and plans to transition St Philip from a Pastoral to a Program functioning church.

February 2008 - Nurturing disciples using Rick Warren's 40 Days of purpose was introduced and educational sessions were attended by the congregation.

May 2008 - The Mission Endowment Funds Committee set a five year goal at \$250,000. Seminars and Sermons were conducted with congregation members on Planned Gift Giving.

September 2008 - SPLC began support of the Lazarus Project. This ministry is located in and focuses on Haitian children.

September 2009 - Rev. Richard Williamson assists in the Stewardship program by teaching on the subject of Biblical stewardship. He is a retired Methodist Minister who with his wife Gail are worshipping at St Philip.

October 2009 - A loan of \$125,000 consisting of a 15 yr. note at 5.5% was obtained from the First National Bank of Mt Dora to begin work on updating the electrical systems, interior lighting in the Sanctuary as well as a new roof and air conditioning units installed.

December 2009 - Secretary Marsha Lanahan resigns.

January 2010 - Two part time church secretaries are hired Janice Story and Becky Thompson.

January 2010 - The Finance Committee introduced a capital fund drive to pay off the loan for the Sanctuary Facility project. The congregation responded with 3 year pledges totaling \$128,000. All work was completed in May and celebrated with a re-dedication ceremony.

January 2010 - Work was begun on a new Church Directory and the Directory was completed and distributed in May.

May 2010 - The first Alpha course led by Rev Williamson and Gail began with 17 participants. The second course began in September with 43 people involved. Alpha is intended both as an orientation for new Christians and continuing education for those already in the church.

August 2010 - SPLC began the transition process focused on developing a call for a new pastor, directed and supported by the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

November 30, 2010 - Pastor Hobert retires and a transition team is formed to begin a search for a new full time Pastor.

December 1, 2010 - Interim Pastor Johan Bergh joins St Philip.

December 31, 2010 - Pastor Sam Goins retires as Visitation Pastor and Rev Richard Williamson takes his place.

January 2011 - The initial start to establish a call for a new pastor began with the process of 14 Cottage meetings attended by over 100 members.

March 2011 – A congregational meeting gathered in the Family Life Center for an afternoon of Historical Reflection in preparation for the calling of a new Pastor.

April/May 2011 – Volunteers conducted meetings and interviews with various community leaders seeking what St. Philip could provide to support them in their missions. This undertaking is in preparation for the calling of a new Pastor.

May 2011 - A congregational meeting gathered in the Family Life Center for an afternoon of Norm Identification in preparation for the calling of a new Pastor.

June 2011 - A congregational meeting gathered in the Family Life Center to participate in a Strategic Planning Session to develop 12/12 mission projects to be completed by June 2012.

June, 2011 – The Hospital Visitation Ministry is launched and later expanded to include Long Term Care.

October 2011 – A 6 person Call Committee was appointed by Church Council, in accordance with Synod guidelines, to begin the Call Process.

June 2012 – Congregation adopts “Big 3 in 13” – Education, Outreach & Communication

June 24 2012 – Pastor Johan Bergh completes his term as Interim Pastor

July 1 2012 ~ Oct 28 2012 – Pastor Howard Nielsen serves as Interim Pastor

November 1 2012 – Pastor Johan Bergh begins serving as full time Pastor of St Philip

November 11 2012 – Installation of Pastor Johan Bergh

January 13, 2013 – Congregation begins Healthy Start Program. Shared Expectations were developed and Pastor-led Listening Posts were held throughout the year.

February, 2013 – Serve as host congregation for the Watoto Children’s Choir.

March, 2013 – Pastor Johan and delegates to the Florida Bahamas Synod Assembly attend a Spring Gathering to discern characteristics sought in a new Bishop.

May 2013 – Retired Pastor Bruce Hobert succumbed to a massive heart attack. He had lead Saint Philip from late in 2001 and retired in November 2010.

May, 2013 – Pastor Johan and 2 delegates attend the Florida Bahamas Synod Assembly, and Robert G. Schaefer is elected Bishop.

June, 2013 – Begin to document and update policies and procedures including the Facility Rental Agreement, the Information Security Policy, and the Budget Development Process.

November, 2013 – “The Big 3 in 13 Initiative” is closed out with recognition and thanks to its leaders. Specific projects in the areas of Outreach, Education, and Communication were planned and implemented. One session of the Alpha course was completed. Education offerings were given for 3 age groups: Preschool, Children & Youth, and Adult. Phase 1 of the website was completed.

January, 2014 – Groups and teams form to implement “The 3 R’s” strategy to Reengage, Retool, and Refocus.

January 11, 2014 – “I See the Light” worship and music service is offered (Reengage).

January 26, 2014 - The amended Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions are approved by the congregation.

March, 2014 – The What's Next Worship & Music Task Force completes the position description for a Music Director (Reengage).

April, 2014 – Music Director, David Perkins, retires.

May, 2014 – Chris Moore begins serving as interim organist.

September, 2014 – St. Philip plans and implements a Service Week-God's Work, Our Hands as part of the ELCA-wide initiative (Reengage).

October, 2014 – The fourth Adult Faith Formation program is completed as part of the What's Next Education planning (Reengage).

October, 2014 – Two Life Group Leaders receive training (Retool).

October, 2014 – Completed renovations to the Office area including painting, new furniture, and new window treatments.

November 30, 2014 – A Congregation Gathering is held to begin the Core Values Formation Process (Refocus).