

FAITH & FAMILY

Community rooted in faith grew from church

By Staff report

news@navarrepress.com

In 1870 a small, wooden church, beautiful in its simplicity, was constructed just off Old Holley Point road. The church remained in use until about 50 years ago, standing guard over the adjacent community cemetery for well over a century and weathering many storms until Hurricane Ivan caused it to collapse in 2004.

Though the building had remained in place, the congregation had long since moved on to a much larger facility, which is now the home of Holley Assembly of God on Highway 87.

In its early years, the church was known as the Methodist Congregational Church. In the 1930s, however, the community experienced a Holy Ghost revival, after which the congregation became a holiness church. Some members, such as Aaron Wells, also felt a calling to preach after being filled with the Holy Spirit. Wells eventually became a pastor of the church and is fondly remembered for leading the church in a reenactment of the Jericho march around the sanctuary.

Descendants of family members who attended the historic church have recalled stories of days of miracle healings in a time before electricity was brought to the area in 1946. Before then, light came by way of oil lamps and air flowed through windows and with a little push from hand-held fans. The only bathroom was an out-house.

Church members were baptized in East Bay, on which some traveled by rowboat to attend church services. The area was heavily wooded generations ago, and there were not many roads other than horse trails. Many people found it easier to go many places by boat, especially considering there was not a bridge across East River back then.

Although it was harder to get from here to there, there seems to have been a stronger sense of community those many years ago. Men would fish the bay and river and share or barter their catch of fish or oysters with others. There were also plenty of deer and turkeys to hunt. Many families had farms and grew gardens from which they shared the bounty. If someone was sick or was unable to work or if a family's house burned down, neighbors would meet their needs and help them back on their feet.

It seems that in some ways today's residents are more easily connected by roadways and worldwide web, but in many ways they are much further apart from one another than in the days when families had to row across the bay.



Photos by Dave Ray
The Old Holley Point Church was damaged by storms and finally collapsed as a result of Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

Faith Briefs

First Baptist Church Navarre

■ Sunday morning worship services at 8:30, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday morning Bible studies for all ages at 8:30, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m.

Navarre Beachside Church

A non-denominational Christian church offers contemporary worship every Sunday morning, rain or shine, at 8:30 a.m. in the summer and 9 a.m. in the winter. For more information, call the Rev. John Kerns at 850-939-1533 or visit www.beachsidechurch.com.

Coastline Calvary Chapel

Coastline Calvary Chapel Gulf Breeze will host the following events:
■ 7 p.m. Tuesdays – The Most Excellent Way (substance-abuse support meet-ing) is designed for those who battle addiction. Meetings are held in the Christian Education Building. Child care is available.

■ Young adults between the ages of 18-30, single or married, are invited to join Coastline Young Adults group at 7 p.m. Tuesday nights in the Coastline Coffeehouse.

■ Sunday services begin at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Children's ministry for infants through fifth-graders is available during both services; junior and senior high school youth meet during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church

■ July 30: GBUMC will have a Family Night at the Blue Wahoos game on July 30. Gates open at 5 p.m. and the game starts at 6 p.m. Bring your family, a ball cap and some blankets and join us for our first GBUMC Family Night at the Blue Wahoos. Tickets available online at GBUMC.org or at all campuses on July 21. Tickets will be available through July 22. For more information, contact psimmering@gbumc.org.

■ August 1: The United Methodist Women Annual Picnic will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 1, at the Fairpoint Fellowship Hall. All are invited for a potluck luncheon complete with entertainment. We will be collecting school supplies for children in need in our local schools. There is no charge, but please bring a dish to share. For more information, contact Joan at 934-5482 or 206-9074.

■ College-Aged Girls' Bible Study Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m., Fairpoint Campus, Room 6. For more info, contact Clint at 850-777-8345 or Casey at 850-712-1022.

■ July 28: The GBUMC Senior Adults will be attending "The Wedding Singer" musical on Sunday, July 28, at Pensacola State College. The group will depart at 12:15 p.m. from the Chapel and will have lunch at Applebee's, then attend the afternoon matinee. Tickets are \$16. For more information or reservations, contact Ter-

rie at 932-3594. All programs of the church are open to the public. For more information on these or any other activities of the church, call 932-3294, 916-1660, or visit our website at www.gbumc.org.

Navarre Presbyterian Church

A low-impact exercise class meets from 8-9 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Navarre Presbyterian Church, 1870 Lowe Road, Navarre. The class also meets at 8 a.m. Fridays at the Navarre Butterfly House to walk for the hour. The public is invited and everyone is encouraged to participate at their own ability level. For more information, call Mary Smith at 932-5770 or Margie McGaughey at 939-2068.

St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church

■ The Great St. Augustine's Yard Sale will be held from 9 a.m. – 2

p.m. on Saturday, July 20. There will be a yard sale, cake sale, car wash, playground and more.

■ The "A Splash of Spirit" auction will be held on October 12. For more information visit the church office, go to www.staugustines-navarre.org online or call 850-939-2261.

Midway First Assembly of God

Sunday Worship is held at 10:30 a.m., and Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.
■ Wednesday Youth Service and Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.
■ Food Pantry Program: Second Wednesdays of each month from 9:30 to noon
■ The Midway First Assembly of God Thrift Store is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Proceeds are used for the church's food pantry program. Donations are accepted, and pickups can be scheduled by

calling Debbie at 850-293-0674. Midway First Assembly of God is located at 5649 East Bay Blvd., Gulf Breeze. For more information, please call the church at 934-3033.

Yacht Club hosts Paddle for the Promise to benefit Covenant Hospice

The Fort Walton Yacht Club will host the inaugural "Paddle for the Promise" stand-up paddleboard (SUP) race to benefit Covenant Hospice on Saturday, August 3 at the yacht club on Choctawhatchee Bay. A series of races for all skill levels and ages will be held beginning at 9 a.m. Registration fees are \$30 for each race entry and \$20 for the youth 1-mile race. For more information visit the event website at www.eventsat-covenant.org/paddle or contact Jenni Perkins at jenni.perkins@covenanthospice.org or 850-598-5003.

Holy Trinity Lutheran ELCA
Sunday Worship
8:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages 9:40 am
850-243-0788
363 Miracle Strip Pkwy. - Fort Walton Beach, FL (Hwy. 98 - Across from Liza Jackson Park)

Navarre United Methodist Church and Preschool
The Bridge Beach Gathering
Dolphin Pavilion
Sunday June 23 - Aug 4
5:00 p.m.
Worship Times
Early Service: 7:45 a.m. in Hildreth Hall
Contemporary: 9:00 a.m.
Traditional: 10:42 a.m.
(850)939-2028
9474 Navarre Parkway • Navarre, FL 32566
To Develop Each Person into a Fully Devoted Disciple of Christ

BILLORY BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School 9:45 am
Service 11 am
Wednesday prayer meeting 6:30 pm
8162 Stillwater Cove • Navarre, FL 32566 (Located on Highway 87 S)
850-939-2849