



### **Chapel Book Club**

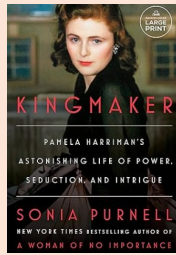
Monday, May 19

Noon— Blue Dolphin (Center Shoppes)

### **The King Maker**

*by Sonia Purnell*

Contact June Hessel at #612-723-3830 or sign up in Shook Fellowship Hall.



### **Gather & Give Event!**

**Tuesday, May 20, 5-7 pm**

**“Oh Baby!”**

*Bring a dish to share and your own beverage.*

We are collecting items for the Riverview High School Cysis program for the month of May. Teenage boys and girls participate in this program. Daycare services are also provided for these teens so they may continue with their high school classes.

Meredith Piazza and Porshia Lococo will be speaking on behalf of the Cysis program.

**Drop off items in Shook Fellowship Hall.**

*Onesies, Diapers and wipes are the most appreciated items!  
(Diaper sizes 1, 2, 3, 4)*

### **Shifting Sands**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 22**

**10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

This group meets to assist each other in maneuvering through difficult times.

Contact Rev. Bill Friederich: [bill@longboatislandchapel.org](mailto:bill@longboatislandchapel.org)

## **Be In The Know - May 2025**

In case you didn't know, the Chapel was established as a Christian Church in 1956 as the first (and only) church on Longboat Key. Because this was the only church on the island for many years, the Chapel served as the only opportunity for organized worship on the island. If someone wanted to attend Church, the Chapel was their only option. As a result, the Chapel was also created as an interfaith church, which simply means that everyone (regardless of beliefs) would always be welcome. The Chapel has maintained that rich heritage for 69 years.

The Chapel's sanctuary sits on five beautiful island acres and was the second building constructed on the island. In all those years, the Chapel had NEVER flooded until the arrival of Hurricanes Helene and Milton in September and October, 2024. Isn't that incredible? It had NEVER flooded!

However, as you might have already known, the Hurricanes clobbered Longboat Key last Fall. The entire first floor of the Chapel's main building was flooded with two feet of seawater, while our thrift store flooded with four feet of seawater. Since that time, we have been feverishly rebuilding and reconstructing our buildings and property. We have made incredible progress with many projects, but much work is still ahead of us. As you can imagine, contractors and supplies can be difficult to obtain on a barrier island, not to mention the costs associated with bringing personnel and materials across Sarasota Bay.

What's happening this month? New sanctuary chairs have been delivered. Our new restrooms and narthex area are nearly complete, and the Chapel's new (metal) roof is being installed. The Chapel gardens and grounds restoration is continuing throughout the summer. Though many more projects are ahead, our next identified priorities are our sanctuary floors and the elevator in our lobby area.

The LORD has blessed us immensely during these last eight months. We witnessed some incredible miracles as the Chapel has served as the support and strength for many people in our community. We are bound together by our love for God and each other, and we strive to host events, activities, and social and service opportunities to allow everyone on the island a safe place to gather, worship, serve, and in some cases, take a few, deep breaths.

**Close your eyes.**

**Take a breath. Give thanks to the LORD for another day in this beautiful world!**