

God showed his
GREAT LOVE
for us by sending
Christ to die for
us while we were
still sinners.

Romans 5:8

The Clarion

FEBRUARY 2010 ♥ THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Haiti Update

Thanks to your generosity, Covenant sent \$6,061 for the Haiti relief effort.

For updates on our denomination's Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program and the continued relief efforts, please visit www.pcusa.org/pda.

Special Sermon Series!

Each Sunday through Lent, you're invited to join us at 10:00 a.m. for Pastor Hagmaier's new series on The Life and Times of King David, who was described as a man after God's own heart!



Ash Wednesday Service

You and your family are invited to attend this special service on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

All Women Are Encouraged to Join Us!

Covenant will host the annual Presbytery-wide Gathering on February 13 at 9:00 a.m. Ladies from churches across our Presbytery are invited to attend, so this will be a wonderful chance to fellowship. The theme for this year's event is "God will continue to do wonders among us!" Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Jessica MacMillan, wife of Covenant's former Associate Pastor, the Rev. Tom MacMillan. The Gathering will also feature special inspirational music. Following this uplifting morning, enjoy a delicious luncheon!

CHILDCARE PROVIDED

Childcare is available for infants through kindergartners! When you register, please indicate the ages of your children. Please provide a sack lunch for each child.

*Ladies, join us for an inspirational morning,
followed by great food and fellowship!*

Peace River Presbytery Women's 20th Annual Gathering

Hosted by Covenant Presbyterian Church

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Sign-in, Fellowship & Refreshments
9:00 to 9:30 A.M.

Special Program
9:30 A.M. to Approx. 12:15 P.M.

Lunch at 12:15 P.M. Will
Conclude The Gathering.

Cost: \$7 Per Person (Includes Lunch)

We've Extended the Registration Deadline to February 5!

Registration forms are available in the church office or online at covpcf.com (see a link to the Women's Gathering in the left column).



From Our Pastor

David Brainerd had spent seven unsuccessful years preaching when he came to his post at Crosswicks, New Jersey, in June, 1745. His ministry among the Indians there began as others had ended—with a few in attendance and little interest shown. He wished himself elsewhere.

Then one day he preached to a few women and children. They went great distances and shared their joy in the Lord Jesus. Thus began a nine-month revival. The converts of one day would repeatedly return to their non-Christian friends and bring them to the next meeting. In the end, nearly 90 Indians were baptized, and it all started with a few women and children!

Christ converted only one person in all of Samaria—a woman, and a dishonored one at that. But, as it turned out, that was enough, for the woman immediately turned into an incredible witness, went back to her village, and invited everyone to hear Christ.

She was a disliked member of the community, and she could have taken revenge by remaining quiet. She was a woman to whom few men would listen and certainly not in public; she was a dishonored person whose experiences

would naturally be suspect. Yet she allowed no excuse to keep her from speaking.

Something wonderful had happened to her, and she took a chance and told everyone about it. What great blessings came because of it!



On his 24th birthday, David Brainerd wrote in his journal. "I . . . longed to live to God and to be altogether devoted to Him; I wanted to wear out my life in His service and for His glory."

Friends, it is not our job to force people to follow Christ. Our calling is simply to be faithful in inviting others to hear the Good News. Like David Brainerd, it may take five, six, or seven years before something happens but keep at it and keep praying.

A few weeks ago, Jaye J. and I went out to dinner at Bonefish Grill and ended up at a high-top table surrounded by six people. After an hour, my wife had passed out four Covenant business cards inviting folks to come to church. Guess what? Two days later, a woman from our table showed up at Covenant and loved the service; and last Sunday, two more people from our table showed up in church!

Why not take the time to invite a friend or neighbor to join us? Who knows? That one person you bring may bring 90 more to Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Daniel Hagmaier

What Is a Stephen Minister? by Betty L. Delfosse

Stephen Ministers are faithful Christians sent by God to help you through a life crisis.

They are filled with God's love and knowledge, which you will find quite priceless.

They'll walk closely with you and be your trusted friend.

Keeping everything in confidence until you're whole again.

Maybe you've lost a loved one or job on which you depend.

It could be a serious illness, and you feel you need a friend.

So you don't have to go it alone when life's challenges you must bear.

Just let them know of your need, and a Stephen Minister will be there.

Betty L. Delfosse, "What Is a Stephen Minister?" in Poems From the Heart: Simple Spiritual Messages to Live By (Kansas City, Missouri: Divine Rime Publications, 2004), p. 79. Used with permission.

STEPHEN LEADERS

David Robinson • 482-5447
Linda Sinclair • 561-4681
Anne Wills • 482-7169
Peggy Salvesen • 936-3384
Pat Arner • 997-9108

Session Highlights

The Session met Tuesday, January 19. Rev. Hagmaier moderated the meeting with eight elders in attendance. Also present were Ed Christenbury, chair of the Board of Deacons; Ruth Whipple, representing Presbyterian Women; Warren Mead, Trustee; and Wilma Groenleer.

The following items were discussed and/or actions were taken:

- Approved Maurie Salvesen, Deborah Maurer, and Nanette Smith to organize a committee to compile the church history in preparation for Covenant's 50th anniversary in 2012.
- Approved Deborah Maurer as chairman and Sheldon Church as an additional member of the Concert Series Committee.
- Approved "High Seas Expedition" as the curriculum for Vacation Bible School.
- Approved, after the fact, the special offering taken for the Haiti crisis.
- Approved granting Rev. Hagmaier authority to initiate special offerings in emergency situations and then bring them to the Session for approval.
- Approved a "Blessing of the Pets" service in the back parking lot on March 27 with Jim Kaserman chairing the event.
- Approved Don Warren and Beverly Grady as elders to serve on the 2010 Nominating Committee with Teta Roberts serving as deacon representative.
- Approved designating Sunday, February 7, as Scout Sunday with recognition of the scouts in attendance and having a Minute for Mission related to the

100th anniversary of scouting this year.

- Approved Bob Shafer and Warren Mead as commissioners to the Presbytery meeting on February 25 at Church of the Covenant in Sarasota.
- Approved Jack Shea and David Robinson to serve communion at the Men's Retreat on January 29.
- Approved the resignation of Warren Mead as a trustee to allow him to accept the nomination to serve as an elder.
- Approved the baptism of Cierra Katelyn McAllister on February 28, 2010.
- Approved the 2010 budget as presented by the Finance Committee and commended the committee for a job well done. The budget will be included in the Annual Report.
- Jack Shea reported 2009 ended with a shortfall of \$34,644 with \$94,000 remaining in the Reserve Funds. Copies of the Financial Report are available in the church office.
- The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 21, at the conclusion of the worship service.
- Received the Annual Consultation report from Dr. George Chorba, CPM Moderator, regarding Cindi Franklin, Inquirer/Candidate.
- Seventy-five new members and affiliates joined Covenant in 2009. Three new members have already been received in 2010.
- The Presbytery-wide Women's Gathering will be held on Saturday, February 13, with the Rev. Jessica MacMillan as keynote speaker.
- The next Stated Session Meeting is Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

Thank You!

Christmas Joy Offering—Thank you to all the Covenant members and friends who supported the special Christmas Joy Offering received in December. The proceeds totaled \$1,513. This monetary gift will help students at PC(USA)-related racially ethnic schools and colleges develop their spiritual gifts and find their calling to serve God. The offering will also help to meet the unexpected needs of families of both active and retired PC(USA) church workers.

Covenant Capers—A big round of applause to everyone who contributed to the successful talent show, including the performers, those who braved the cold weather to be in the audience, the dear ones who brought cookies to share, and all the “behind the scenes” people who gave of their time and energy. Also, I want to give a belated “curtain call” to Kent Sheets, our “in-house” magician and his competent and beautiful assistant, Jaye J. Hagmaier. And then last, but not least, The Village People! Who will ever forget the singing and dancing of Dick Cox, Doc White, Barry Metzger, and the lead singer, our beloved “shy” (?) pastor, Dan Hagmaier? The audience participation was great, too! It was a wonderful evening of fun, laughter, good music, and entertainment. My heartfelt thanks to all of you.— *Marlene Dietzel*

From Emma Ziegler—Thank you for your prayers, cards, prayer gram, flowers, and prayer shawl. The visits from Dave Dietzel were so meaningful, and the reading material he gave me has meant so much. Prayer can do so much. I am not in pain. God has been with Dick and I every step of the way. I love all of you and miss you.

From Pamela Coyne (Erin and Emily, Too!)—Thank you so much to the sweet person who donated the generous gift to use for the girls for Christmas. As always, God blessed us with just what was needed to make a special holiday. Many warm hugs from we three girls.

From Bill Wood—Thank you for being so thoughtful. The flowers are beautiful.

*Mary Mozelle, Organist
Lenten Organ Recital*

Wednesday, March 3, 11:00 AM.

at

*Venice Presbyterian Church
111 East Firenze Avenue • Venice, Florida*

*The public is invited to this
inspirational program of organ works.*

**GOOD SAMARITAN FUND
AVAILABLE FOR
COVENANT MEMBERS**

Covenant’s GOOD SAMARITAN FUND is used to help members in need. In the past, we have paid their electric bills or assisted with other urgent needs of our members. They can request help from that fund through Barry Metzger in the church office or from Dan Hagmaier, Dave Dietzel, or a Stephen Minister. If you would like to contribute to this special fund, which currently contains \$1100, please make a check payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church with a notation for the “Good Samaritan Fund.” We hope the fund will be a blessing, especially during these difficult economic times.

Covenant Church Affiliate Membership

Covenant offers two types of membership: Full Membership for those who choose Covenant as their “home” church and Affiliate Membership for those who want to retain home church membership at their church “up north.” About 10% of Covenant’s current members are Affiliate Members. If you are a seasonal resident of the Fort Myers area and attend Covenant regularly, we invite you to become an Affiliate Member. As an Affiliate Member, you can participate in all of Covenant’s programs, ministries, and activities, except for voting or serving as an elected officer of the congregation. If you are interested in Affiliate Membership, please contact Barbara Heflin in the church office at 334-8937.

Email Prayer Chain

Bertie Cox oversees Covenant’s prayer chain by emailing prayer requests to the friends and members who have asked to be a part of the prayer chain. (This is a separate emailing list from the church emails sent by our pastor and other staff members.) If you would like to be added to the email prayer chain or if you have a prayer request to share, please email Bertie at BertieCox@aol.com. We’re grateful that she manages this prayer outreach so faithfully!

Primetimers’ Outing

Join us on Saturday, February 27, for a tour of Solomon’s Castle, home of sculptor Howard Solomon! Our van will leave the church at 9:00 a.m., drive to Ona, FL, have lunch on the “Boat in the Moat,” and tour the house with its unique hand-crafted artifacts. We’ll return to the church at approximately 4:00 p.m. Cost of \$14 includes admission and transportation, payable to Covenant. Lunch will be on your own. Please sign up in the courtyard and send your payment no later than February 20. *It is important to sign up well ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.*

Welcome,
New Members!
Peter & Lianly Latuhihin

SPECIAL WOMEN’S EVENT IN MARCH

All PW Circles will meet together during March for Bible study, fellowship, and lunch! Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Dan will lead our study of Joshua, followed by a good group discussion and a light lunch. This special event will replace our individual Circle meetings for March. All Covenant women are welcome!

Presbyterian Women

PW Leaders’ Study

Monday, February 1, 11:00 a.m. - F205

February Women’s Circles

Naomi Circle

Monday, February 8
6:30 p.m. - F202/203

Deborah Circle

Tuesday, February 9
10:00 a.m. - F205

Ruth Circle

Tuesday, February 9
10:00 a.m. - Betty Meints’ Home

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, February 11
9:30 a.m. - F205

Mary Circle

Friday, February 19
9:30 a.m. - F204

March Circles will meet together; see above!

♥ Homebound Friends ♥

Please pray for our friends who are unable to attend services: Herb Beatty, Ethel Bell, Shirley Bellack, Ann Brown, Dorothy Browne, Ellie Bupp, Pearl Cartwright, Barbara Childs, Doris Cox, Loa Dowler, Gloria Gibbs, Betty Gibson, Hazel Halter, Barbara Hill, Edith McDaniel, Esther McFarland, Dudley Smith, Ginny Wand, and William Wood.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

DEC. FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	EXPENSE
\$ 67,256 Actual	\$61,526 Actual
\$106,620 Budget	\$72,698 Budget

YEAR TO DATE

The year ended with a deficit of \$9,446, and \$25,198 was borrowed from the reserve funds to cover expenses. TOTAL SHORTFALL FOR 2009 WAS \$34,644. The current balance on our loan is \$706,452. A complete financial report is available in the church office each month. Thank you!

WEDNESDAY MORNING LIVE!

Community Lecture Series

Upstairs at Covenant
9:30: Coffee/Snacks
10:00: All Lectures

This free series is open to the public.
No advance registration is required.

February 3

MUSIC THERE SHALL BE

Mary Mozelle
Director of Music & Organist
Covenant Presbyterian Church

February 10

A LIFE OF RICHES

The Rev. James A. Bing
Pastor
Friendship Baptist Church, Ft. Myers

February 17

A CONVERSATION WITH AN ICON

Berne Davis
Community Leader and Philanthropist

February 24

ARE WE HEALTHY YET?

Sally Jackson
Systems Director, Community Projects
Lee Memorial Health System

Covenant Concert Series

February 12 • 7:30

ETA3

Emily Thomas, Flutist
Tomoko Nakayama, Pianist
Alexey Gorokholinsky, Clarinetist

Named after a luminous and spectacular star-forming Nebula in our galaxy, ETA3 is a classical trio comprising American flutist Emily Thomas, Japanese pianist Tomoko Nakayama, and Russian clarinetist Alexey Gorokholinsky. (ETA initializes the first letter of each musician's first name.) The trio was formed at The Juilliard School during spring of 2006.

The concert will feature a romantic program to initiate your Valentine's Day weekend, including Prelude to "The Afternoon of a Faun," Romanian Folk Dances, and the Theme from "Schindler's List."

February 26 • 7:30

Vegas, Soul, Rock 'n' Roll

Ron Gartner, Vocalist

A high energy, highly entertaining songfest that takes audiences from the finger-snappin' sounds of the Rat Pack, Bobby Darin, and Tony Bennett to the great ballads sung by Perry Como and others to the Rock-'n'-Rollin' sounds of Bandstand and Motown! From Sinatra, Dino, and Sammy to the fabulous Bandstand songs of the 50's and 60's to Motown, there's something for everyone in this fantastic Vegas-style show. Ron Gartner means Great Entertainment!

All concerts, which are held in Covenant's sanctuary, are presented free to the community.



Covenant Presbyterian Church
2439 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Phone: 239-334-8937
Fax: 239-332-0503
Website: covpcfm.com
Email: info@covpcfm.com

Sunday Mornings at Covenant

9:00 • Sunday School
10:00 • Traditional Service
Nursery Care Available

