

JESUS SAID,
"Let the children
come to me.
Don't stop them!
For the Kingdom of
Heaven belongs to
those who are like
these children."

Matthew 19:14

The Clarion

MAY 2010 • THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE 28 TO JULY 2 • 9:00 A.M. TO NOON

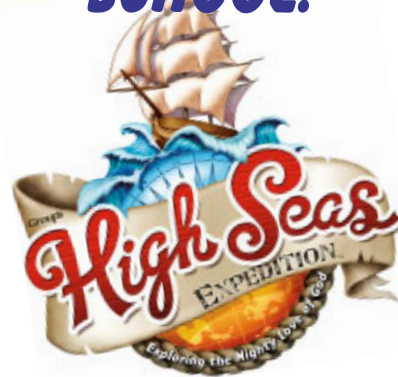
Your child is invited to another exciting VBS featuring skits, amazing crafts, fun songs, snacks, games, and great Bible stories!

**For children entering PK4 to
kids who have completed 5th grade!**
(Must be age 4 before August 31, 2010.)

**\$25 per child
(Only \$20 per child if you register early by June 1!)**

The cost includes a t-shirt and CD plus all crafts, snacks, etc.!.
Registration closes on Sunday, June 13.
Forms are available in the church office.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!



God Sightings

During Vacation Bible School, kids will get caught up in the excitement of finding places and situations where they see God in action! They'll watch for God every day of VBS—and beyond. By the end of VBS, everyone will see a trail of evidence that God is at work in our world!



ALL HANDS ON DECK!

Be part of the VBS volunteer team!

VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 6 after worship (11:15 in F-201)

Please sign up at the Connection Station or call Dawn at 334-8737.

DECORATING DAYS (at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church)

May 8, 22 and June 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We're joining members of Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church to build the VBS set! We'd appreciate the help of anyone who is handy with tools, painting, etc. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up at the Connection Station or call Dawn at 334-8937.

SPECIAL NEED

**If anyone would be willing to donate
gift cards from Home Depot or
Lowe's, that would be a great help!**



THANK YOU

Thank you to all Covenant members, friends, and visitors who again supported the One Great Hour of Sharing denominational special offering. The proceeds of the offering totaled \$1,225. This money will help fund the PC(USA) worldwide Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Hunger Program, and Self Development of People, which are now all focused on Haiti. PDA is assessing how church resources can best help the country rebuild. The Hunger Program is helping get critical crops planted to ensure a harvest this year. Pix Mahler, our denomination's partnership facilitator for Haiti, says, "PC(USA) is connected, compassionate, and committed for the long term to Haiti. When the cameras go away, Presbyterians do not."

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From Our Pastor

The Reverend Daniel L. Hagmaier

This month we will celebrate Mother's Day, and I have to tell you that I miss my mother. She helped change my life by introducing me to Jesus Christ and encouraging me each step of the journey. In a tribute to my mother and your mother and mothers everywhere, I overheard somebody say:

Somebody said it takes about six weeks to get back to normal after you've had a baby. Somebody doesn't know that once you're a mother, normal is history.

Somebody said you learn how to be a mother by instinct. Somebody never took a three-year-old shopping.

Somebody said being a mother is boring. Somebody never rode in a car driven by a teenager with a driver's permit.

Somebody said if you're a "good" mother, your child will "turn out good." Somebody thinks a child comes with directions and a guarantee.

Somebody said "good" mothers never raise their voices. Somebody never came out the back door just in time to see her child hit a golf ball through the neighbor's kitchen window.

Somebody said you don't need an education to be a mother. Somebody never helped a fourth grader with his math.

Somebody said a mother can find all the answers to her child-rearing questions in the books. Somebody never had a child stuff beans up his nose.

Somebody said the hardest part of being a mother is labor and delivery. Somebody never watched her "baby" get on the bus for the first day of kindergarten.

Somebody said a mother can do her job with her eyes closed and one hand tied behind her back. Somebody never organized seven giggling Girl Scouts to sell cookies.

On behalf of Covenant, I want to thank all of you who have served as mothers, grandmothers, or aunts or who have been mothers to young people along the journey. May God bless you for your love and faithfulness.

Happy Mothers Day!

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Daniel Hagmaier



Session Highlights

The Session met Monday, April 19. The Rev. Hagmaier moderated the meeting, with eleven elders in attendance. Also present were Ruth Whipple, chair of the Board of Deacons, and Don Berglund, chair of the Evangelism Committee.

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

- ✓ Approved placement of Coalition of Immokalee Farmworkers cards at Welcome Center.
- ✓ Approved Commitment to Peacemaking, PCUSA.
- ✓ Approved sale of 24 art prints by Rosemary Oliver for \$100 each with proceeds to go to the Edwards, our missionaries in Zimbabwe.
- ✓ Approved Emerson Wilson's visit on August 1 with a Minute for Mission and a potluck luncheon.
- ✓ Approved use of facilities by the Emmaus Walk Group on Monday evenings for 10 weeks beginning June 14.
- ✓ Approved removal of two trees at a cost of \$600.
- ✓ Approved the Summer Camp Program on Friday mornings for children up to age 12.
- ✓ Approved Claude Allen, Beverly Grady, and Warren Mead to do a feasibility study of Covenant House.
- ✓ Approved Jo Ann Leasure and Barbara Heflin as commissioners to the Presbytery meeting on May 27 at St. Paul's Church, North Port.
- ✓ Approved June 6 as Senior Recognition Sunday with the awarding of scholarships during the worship service followed by a potluck luncheon.
- ✓ Eighteen new members and one affiliate have joined Covenant since January 1, 2010.
- ✓ The next Stated Session Meeting is Tuesday, May 18, 2010.



9:00-4:00 Monday-Thursday • 9:00-1:00 Friday

Please note that the church office will close at 1:00 p.m. on Fridays during the summer.

Who Is Involved in Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Leaders are the ones who oversee and direct our Stephen Ministry program. They recruit, select, train, organize, and supervise our Stephen Ministers. They identify people in need of care and match them with a Stephen Minister. Covenant has seven Stephen Leaders.

Stephen Ministers are the caregivers. They have engaged in 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving, including general topics such as listening, feelings, boundaries, assertiveness, confidentiality, and using Christian resources in caregiving. In addition, their training covered specialized topics such as ministering to the divorced, hospitalized, bereaved, and aging. We currently have 23 Stephen Ministers!

Care Receivers are the recipients of Stephen Ministers' care. They are people from our church or community who are experiencing divorce, grief, loss of a job, loneliness, hospitalization, terminal illness, or any of a number of other life difficulties. Stephen Ministers usually meet with their care receivers once a week for about an hour for as long as the care receiver will benefit by this confidential relationship.

You are the front lines of the caring ministry in our congregation. Throughout the week, as you meet and greet those around you, think Stephen Ministry. If you see people who are downcast or struggling through difficult times, tell them about this special ministry in our congregation where they can receive the extra love and care they need.

Please call the church office at 334-8937 to learn more about Stephen Ministry.

Summer Choir

Beginning Sunday, June 6, our Covenant Summer Choir will begin rehearsing and singing for the Sunday services. The Sunday rehearsals will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m., and the services will begin at 10:00 a.m. No Thursday rehearsals will be held during the summer.

If you have never sung with our choir but are interested in being a part of this Music Ministry, please come to the music room at 9:00 a.m. on the 6th of June; give it a try and see if you like singing with us! All are welcome – high school age to 100+ years old! Just bring your “singing voice,” and our Director of Music, Mary Mozelle, will do the rest. If you have any questions prior to June 6, don't hesitate to call Mary at 941-483-0071 (cell).

This September, Women Are Invited to Join a Circle to Study the Book of Revelation

Our circles continue to meet through May, and it is never too late to come to a circle meeting! If you are interested in Presbyterian Women, please call the Moderator, Karen Ulack (481-5165), or the Membership Chair, Ruth Whipple (936-4848). Circles resume in September, and our Bible study for 2010-2011 will be the book of Revelation. Here is a brief statement from the author of next year's Bible

study, Barbara Rossing: “My hope is that this Bible study will equip Christians to read Revelation for its vision of hope, liberating them from being caught up in the fear of being ‘left behind.’ As we look to the uncertainty of the future, the Bible can help us face the future with hope.” Covenant Presbyterian Women look forward to meeting together, praying together, and studying the book of Revelation together in the fall. We hope that you will join us!

The Gabriel House Four-Mile Walk-A-Thon

May 29 ◊ 8:30–Noon ◊ Lakes Park
 Registration on day of walk: 8:00–8:30
 Pre-registration (before May 29) at
 Covenant's Connection Station
 Or to help sponsor the event, please
 drop off a check (payable to Covenant
 Presbyterian) at the church office.

The Gabriel House in Fort Myers is one of the ministries supported by Covenant's Missions Committee. The house was founded over 20 years ago to provide a Christian home for children from around the world who have been neglected and/or who have medical needs. In addition, many of the children have been paired with adoptive families throughout the country. For further information, visit www.gabrielhouse.org or call Barb Chapin at 274-9471.

Welcome,
 New Members!
 Jack & Patty Tilson



Graduates

High school and college seniors will be recognized in church on Sunday, June 6. Graduates, please bring to the church office your picture, parents' names, school name, major, and your future plans. Or please email your photo and information to info@covpcfm.com by May 15. (We've extended the deadline!)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Coordinating Team

Mon., May 3, 9:30 AM

Women's Circles

Deborah: Tues., May 11, 10:00 AM, F205

Elizabeth: Thurs., May 13, 9:30 AM, F205

Mary: Fri., May 21, 9:30 AM, F204

Naomi: Mon., May 10, 6:30 PM, F202

Ruth: Tues., May 11, 10:00 AM, F206

Please call the church for information.

My wife and I want to thank you for sending the CDs of the services we requested. We were very impressed with the church as a whole and enjoyed the sermons immensely. If we are ever in the area, we will try to attend another service. Thank you and God bless.—Rick Exley



THANK YOU

Homebound Friends

Please pray for our friends who are unable to attend services: Andy Banse, Herb Beatty, Ethel Bell, Shirley Bellack, Ann Brown, Dorothy Browne, Ellie Bupp, Pearl Cartwright, Barbara Childs, Doris Cox, Loa Dowler, Hilda Eagan, Gloria Gibbs, Betty Gibson, Hazel Halter, Betty Johnson, Bea Lester, Edith McDaniel, and Dudley Smith.

God Bless You!

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	EXPENSE
\$51,373 Actual	\$55,221 Actual
\$53,497 Budget	\$54,024 Budget
OPERATING FUNDS	RESERVE FUNDS
\$493	\$107,075
YTD INCOME OVER EXPENSES	\$8,860
CURRENT BALANCE ON LOAN	\$704,522
A complete report is available in the office.	

ECHO

One of the missions that Covenant supports is ECHO, a Christian organization fighting world hunger. Their headquarters in North Fort Myers includes the Global Farm and Research Center, reference library, seed bank, tropical fruit nursery, bookstore, and offices. Echo's goal is to help equip people with agricultural resources to improve the lives of hungry people with sustainable hunger solutions.

ECHO's seed bank develops new seeds and provides sample packets to those working on behalf of the poor. The bank carries the seeds of plants likely to thrive under difficult growing conditions in the tropics and subtropics.

ECHO is currently helping those in Haiti, not through direct relief, but by providing information on long-term problems such as water purification, urban gardening, and fuel wood for cooking, to name a few.

Tour

A tour of ECHO will take place on Tuesday, May 18, leaving from Covenant at 9:15 a.m. and returning by 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person. This is a good opportunity to see and learn about ECHO and the wonderful work they do in fighting world hunger. Please notify the church office or sign up at the Connection Station if you'd like to join us.

Books Featured in Our Library

- *Everything for Sale* by Robert Kuttner ("I have never seen the market system better described. This is the most readable and important book about the economy I have read in a very long time."—Robert Heilbroner)
- *The Wounded Spirit* by Frank Peretti (His first nonfiction work: "The man who has thrilled Christian readers with novels such as *This Present Darkness* here describes the childhood trauma that first introduced him to the dark side. He expresses grave concern about other 'wounded spirits,' particularly young people who may eventually snap after withstanding years of bullying by their peers. The book is full of painful stories, but also moments of hope, as Peretti recounts instances when a peer or a teacher stood up for him. This remarkable memoir will inspire readers to undertake similar acts of courageous compassion."—Publishers Weekly)
- *Mother* by Linda Ann Rentschler: Two women become friends while grieving the loss of their mothers. ("This novel will provide comfort and encouragement for anyone who has struggled with grief."—Publishers Weekly)
- *First Family* by David Baldacci: Thriller opens with a children's birthday party at Camp David.

Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary!

Concert Series

Coming Next Season!

November 12, 2010 • 7:30 p.m.

Thomas Pandolfi, Pianist

All-Gershwin Program

December 10, 2010 • 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Concert

Featuring Handel's Messiah, Part I
Concert Choir, Orchestra, Jubilate Ringers
Mary Mozelle, Conductor

January 30, 2011 • 4:00 p.m.

Spirit of the Gulf – Sweet Adelines

For the very first time at Covenant!

February 11, 2011 • 7:30 p.m.

Voices in Bronze – Christine Anderson

Solo Handbell Ringer

March 18, 2011 • 7:30 p.m.

Spring Concert

Featuring the Faure Requiem
Concert Choir, Orchestra, Jubilate Ringers
Mary Mozelle, Conductor

April, 2011 (Date & Time TBD)

Winner of the

Westminster Choir College Scholarship

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



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Sunday Mornings at Covenant

...

9:00 • Sunday School

10:00 • Worship Service

Nursery Care Provided

