



E. ROBERT VAN DEUSEN, PIANIST

FEBRUARY 10, 2017

7:30 P.M.

Celebrating 40 years as a professional musician, the great Bobby van Deusen brings warmth, humor, and a dazzling musical variety to your stage! A Philadelphia native, Bobby began his musical studies at age 6, after his parents noticed him picking out tunes by mimicking the family's player piano. He graduated with distinction in the arts from Whetstone High School in Columbus, Ohio, and studied Piano Performance at Capital University and THE Ohio State University. He began his professional career playing clubs and restaurants in the Midwest, traveling south in 1985, he found himself a member of the Rosie O'Grady's Dixieland band in Pensacola, as well as performing in New Orleans with all the greats, including Pete Fountain, Al Hirt, The Dukes of Dixieland, and a 5 year engagement with the Delta Queen Steamboat Co. He was the 'House Band' for RadioLive at WUWF for 18 years, and has performed with orchestras and civic organizations around the country. Bobby is an instrument rated pilot, a 20+ gallon platelet donor, and enjoys making macramé leashes for the Humane Society.

Save the date...Sunday, March 5, 2017 will be the annual Celebrate the Gifts of Women Luncheon.

The program will feature Mina Edison and Clara Ford from The Edison Home. Sign up at the

Connection Station in the courtyard beginning February 12th.

**Covenant
Presbyterian
Church**

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The Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

February 2017

Greetings,

After we elect, ordain/install new leaders in the church, I think it is helpful for us to reflect on our church leadership both past and present.

At our Service of Installation and Ordination on January 8 we celebrated the new leadership of the following individuals: *For Deacon*, Ellen Burnette (newly ordained), Barbara Griffith (returning to complete 2nd year as Deacon Moderator), Pat McFarland (installed, served as Deacon elsewhere), and Barbara Murnane (newly ordained); *For Elder*, Richard Cox (installed, served as elder at Covenant twice before), Teddy Hogle (installed, served as PCUSA elder elsewhere), Nancy Marti (newly ordained), and Connie Wilhite (newly ordained). In addition to these offices, we also welcome Kent Sheets to Covenant's Board of Trustees.

At the same time, I want to personally thank, and thank with you, those who have faithfully served and are now rotating off the Board or Session: *Deacons*, Skip Laukemper, Barb Sheets and Anna Sieman; *Elders*, Emily Coyne (Young Adult Elder), Dave Garrison (Mission Chairperson), Bob Groenleer (Property Chairperson), JoAnn Leasure (Membership and Evangelism Chairperson), Jack Ruzicho (Human Relations and Nominating Chairperson).

As I think about both the service and the gifts of the incoming and outgoing elders and deacons, I am truly thankful to God for the leadership of each and every one of them. Serving on the Board of Deacons and on the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church is a big commitment. Being chosen by the church nominating committee and elected by the congregation is no small thing in our tradition. Ordination in our church is to three separate offices, all distinct unto themselves.

Elders are charged with the responsibility of church oversight. Once ordained an elder, a person is always an elder in the PCUSA. While actively serving on the Session, they are referred to as *ruling elders*.

Deacons are charged with the responsibility of the care and nurture of the congregation. As in the case of Elders, once one is ordained a deacon, it is for life whether one is active on the board or not.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament (also referred to as *teaching elders*) are charged with the responsibility of preaching, teaching, pastoral care and overseeing the order and program of the church by moderating the Session and acting as church head of staff (where appropriate). A teaching elder is *not* to decide for a local congregation, but is to lead and dialogue with the Session about important decisions for the church and then allow the ruling elders to make the decision based on their wisdom, conscience and the leading of God's Spirit. In

the same way, the Pastor does not tell the Deacons how to do their work in a particular congregation, but comes alongside to advise and support. A teaching elder does not hold membership in a local congregation but is a member of the presbytery, the next highest judicatory in the Presbyterian system, which has complete oversight of all ministers.

Leadership in any of these roles in the life of the church requires the nominating committee (in the case of local congregations and elected by the congregation) and Committees on Ministry (in the case of presbytery oversight of teaching elders) to discern the leadership capability (understanding that leadership comes in different forms and styles) and commitment of those who wish to serve in this capacity. Such committees approach their work prayerfully, and with a knowledge of our ecclesiastical order and process. Those chosen are done so on the basis of individuals having clearly demonstrated leadership in the life of the congregation. We don't, for instance, nominate individuals to these offices to get someone involved in church life. Ultimately, through these processes the church elects and ordains individuals that it believes God is calling to lead in a particular time and place. This means that although we shorthand our process by calling it *representative democracy*, we also recognize that God has a hand—the most important hand—in choosing our leaders.

I realize that I have probably shared more information with you than you wanted to know. After coming through a selection process that lasted four months (from the first gathering of the nominating committee to the Service of Ordination and Installation), however, I think it is important to remember how much work, prayer and commitment is required to find our leaders and maintain the continuity of overall church leadership throughout the years.

As the transition has now been officially made as of last month, I ask that you do the following: Keep our newly ordained and installed leaders in your prayers as they begin their duties, remember and give thanks for those who have recently completed their service, and verbally encourage and thank all the leaders of our church when you have the opportunity. In that way we maintain the integrity and fellowship of our community and together look forward to another important year of serving Christ here in Fort Myers, throughout our denomination and in Christ's Church Universal.

Peace and Grace, *Jeff*



PW BIBLE STUDY—Presbyterian Women are studying “*Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes*” by Judy Yates Siker. Pastor DeYoe conducts a monthly Bible study the first Monday at 10:45 a.m. in room F205. Everyone is welcome to attend.

PW CIRCLES—We invite you to come and visit one of the circles which meet at the following times:

- Naomi Circle - 2nd Monday at 6:30 pm
- Deborah Circle and Ruth Circle - 2nd Tuesday at 10 a.m.
- Elizabeth Circle - 2nd Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

For more information about Circles or PW, please call Nora Harmon at 645-1125



Our youth are taking the opportunity to serve the community and helping others by participating in Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5th. Souper Bowl of Caring uses the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need. All money collected will go to the CCMi Soup Kitchen.

YOUTH GROUP

Covenant Presbyterian Church hosts a full calendar of events for all youth in 6th through 12th grade! Youth Bible Study is held every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. before worship. Youth fellowships take place every month on Sunday evenings and include meals, games, activities, music and discussions. A variety of trips, retreats, mission and outreach opportunities are available as well. Youth do not need to be members of Covenant to participate in activities and are always welcome to invite friends! For specific information regarding dates and times of youth activities please contact Eric Nanz at nanzet@gmail.com

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY

- 2/5 Sunday School & 'Souper Bowl of Caring' collection
- 2/12 Sunday School & Evening Youth Group (5:00 – 7:00 pm)
- 2/15 Wednesday Youth Band Rehearsal (7:00 - 8:15pm)
- 2/19 Sunday School & Confirmation Component #5 (11:30am - 1:30pm)
- 2/26 Youth Luncheon Fundraiser (9:00am - 1:30pm)
- 2/28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (5:30 – 7:30pm)

Sunday Morning Adult Classes

All are welcome to participate from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. for our adult Sunday school classes.

“**Bread for the World**” (F207) study and discussion continues in February with the following topics:

- Feb. 5 Soil and Sacrament: Food and Faith
- Feb. 12, 19, 26 The Work of the Faithful in response to our call to care for all of creation.

Adult Bible Fellowship (F201) continues “**The Psalmist Cry**” exploring the Psalms as scripts for lament-guides for how to express feelings honestly, in ways normally not permitted or expected within Christian community. Renowned author and theologian, Walter Brueggemann, hosts the video segments shown each week, followed by class discussion. Leaders include John Sheppard, JoAnn Leasure, Barb Shaffer and Mary Ellen Frost. At the conclusion of “The Psalmist Cry” the Adult Bible Fellowship will do a Lenten Study.

LIFE Justice Coalition Update

Covenant is a member of the LIFE (Lee Interfaith For Empowerment) justice coalition consisting of 13 Lee County church congregations working for justice within the county in several areas of people's lives. LIFE has been a very successful justice ministry in Lee County by increasing juvenile mental health resources, introducing anti-bullying training in public schools, increasing the use of civil citations in lieu of arrests for first time misdemeanor offenders by the County's law enforcement agencies, and banning "the box" regarding past criminal convictions on employment applications for the City of Fort Myers.

LIFE is currently working to reduce the number of unsolved murders in Fort Myers that we read about in *The News-Press*. Research is a key phase of successful justice actions, and several Covenant members are active in this research work. LIFE is working with the new Fort Myers Police Chief Diggs in exploring many areas including assigning additional detectives to "cold" cases, a restorative justice program and collaboration between the State Attorney's Office and the FMPD. If you would like to join them in this fulfilling work, please contact the Covenant LIFE Team Leader, Don Berglund at 239-454-0534.

LIFE's "Big Event" is the annual **Nehemiah Action Assembly** where we present our research and recommendations for action on the current issue and "ask" the appropriate officials and decision makers to agree to the "ask". The 2017 Nehemiah Assembly will be on Tuesday, March 28 at 7 pm at St. Columbkille Catholic Church, 12171 Iona Road, in South Fort Myers. All Covenant members and friends are invited to attend and we hope a large number will come and support the Covenant LIFE Team.

Covenant's Concert Series continues the tradition of glorifying God through music. Our concerts are designed to enrich listeners and to affect a greater awareness of God's power so that He may be glorified as we creatively use the gifts He has given us. Please invite your friends and neighbors to any or all of these wonderful concerts.

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**see back cover for information*

March 3, 2017

Coast Guard Academy—Idlers

March 17, 2017

Messiah College Choir

March 31, 2017

Covenant Spring Concert



Brown Bag 'n' Books meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11 am in F205. Bring your lunch or cup of tea and join us! Book selections are available for lending in CPC library. For more information, stop by our library or email Jo Ann Leasure tcup166@embarqmail.com or Beverly Campbell campbell.beverly@gmail.com

Here are the upcoming selections:

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 10 am, Wednesday Morning Live Speaker, Lyn Millner, *The Allure of Immortality: An American Cult, a Florida Swamp, and a Renegade Prophet*. The utopian community relocated to Estero, FL in 1894.

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Book Club "Road Trip" to the Koreshan State Historic Site. The utopian community that is the subject of Dr. Milner's book is now a 305 acre park in Estero. Meet at church parking lot at 9:30 am for car pool to 3800 Corkscrew Road, Estero, FL 33928. We will try to get a private tour of the historic site for our group. After the tour, we will lunch together at a restaurant (to be decided at our January meeting).

Thursday, March 16, 2017

The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY

The Session met on Tuesday, January 15, 2017 with Rev. Jeff DeYoe moderating the meeting and ten elders in attendance. Others present: Connie Burkert, Deacon; Gary Brothers, Facilities Manager; and Deborah Maurer, Clerk of Session pro-tem.

- Approved the 2017 Session/Deacon Ministry Structure.
- Approved the Youth Group 2017 Calendar of Events.
- The Finance Committee is considering other options of refinancing the bank loan which matures in September 2017 in an effort to obtain a more competitive interest rate. One option is the Presbyterian Investments & Loan Program (PILP).
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, which was previously approved, will occur February 28, 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.
- The annual InAsMuch event will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017. Everyone is invited to sign-up for this worthwhile



The Covenant youth group invites you to a benefit Spaghetti Lunch to help raise funds for Montreat and Cedarkirk summer programs. This fun and festive event will be held on **Sunday, February 26th at 11:30b am** in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

There is no cost for lunch but donations will be greatly appreciated. Two auctions will also take place during the event to help raise money:

1. Youth Service Auction (bid on a youth to help with chores/cooking/babysitting/etc.)
2. Silent Auction (bid on goods/desserts/services offered by adults from the congregation) **ITEMS NEEDED!**

If you are interested in donating something to the silent auction please contact Eric Nanz at 540-797-3843 or nanzet@gmail.com

STEPHEN MINISTRY

GRIEF COMES IN MANY FORMS, LASTS AN INDETERMINATE AMOUNT OF TIME, AND EVEN WHEN WE THINK WE HAVE LEFT IT BEHIND AND MOVED ON, IT WILL POP BACK UP WHEN MOST UNEXPECTED.

GRIEF OCCURS WHEN WE MOURN SOMETHING OR SOMEONE LOST TO US. GRIEF IS ANOTHER ASPECT OF LOVE OR PERHAPS DREAMS AND HOPES UNFULFILLED AND GRIEF OCCURS NO MATTER OUR AGE OR STATION IN LIFE. IT IS, WHEN ACKNOWLEDGED, MOST OFTEN FOLLOWED BY THE QUESTION, "WHY?" STEPHEN'S MINISTERS MAY NOT HAVE THE ANSWERS ANYMORE THAN YOU BUT WE ARE WILLING TO WALK WITH YOU AS YOU SEARCH FOR GOD'S ANSWERS FOR US. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW COULD USE A FRIEND TO WALK WITH YOU, PLEASE, ASK FOR A STEPHEN MINISTER. WE PRACTICE CHRISTIAN COMPASSION, CARE, CONFIDENTIALITY, AND THE COMFORT OF KNOWING SOMEONE CARES.

1 THESSALONIANS:5:11A - Grief comes in many forms, lasts an indeterminate amount of time, and even when we think we have left it behind and moved on, it will pop back up when most unexpected. Grief occurs when we mourn something or someone lost to us. Grief is another aspect of love or perhaps dreams and hopes unfulfilled and grief occurs no matter our age or station in life. It is, when acknowledged, most often followed by the question, "Why?." Stephen's Ministers may not have the answers anymore than you but we are willing to walk with you as you search for God's answers for us. If you or someone you know could use a friend to walk with you, please, ask for a Stephen's

The 2017 Wednesday Morning Live series

The "Wednesday Morning Live" community lecture series 2017 continues in February. Each session opens with coffee and continental breakfast starting at 9:30 a.m. Speakers begin their lectures at 10:00, allow time for a brief question-and-answer session, and end at 11:00. Authors will also have books available for purchase. There is no charge for attending; donations are accepted for breakfast. This could become your favorite hour-and-a-half of the week!

This lecture series is possible because of the vision of its founder and leader, Dr. David Robinson, to bring informative programs to our church and community. Other members of the planning committee this year are Barbara Griffith, Tom Koester, Shirley Koester, Mary Lee Mann and Don Berglund.

- February 1 Rick and Ellen Burnette, *The Ministry of ECHO*
- February 8 John Biffar, *Children of the Fourth World*, his documentary film
- February 15 Lyn Millner, *The Allure of Immortality*, her book about the Koreshan Cult in Estero
- February 22 Melanie Payne, Consumer Advocacy

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host screenings on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

December 2016 Financial Report

Income for December	\$57,915
Income Year-to-date	\$653,516
Expenses for December	\$52,679
Expenses Year-to-date	\$638,649
Year-to-date overage	\$14,867
Current Balance on Loan	\$252,703
Principal & Interest Paid in December	\$3,938

*A complete finance report is available in the church office each month.

Thank you to Smokey's Pump Service for donating services valuing \$350 to repair the irrigation pump last month.

Peacemaking Commitment



God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In his reconciling love, He overcomes the barriers between brothers and breaks down every form of discrimination based upon racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary. The church is called to bring all men to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church and the exercise of political rights. Therefore, the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it. Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude, dominate, or patronize their fellowmen, however subtly, resist the Spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess.

PC(USA) Confession of 1967

Inasmuch United Fort Myers

A one day **Mission Blitz** sponsored by local churches to help those in need in Fort Myers.

March 4th, 2017

Sign-ups are going on now!

How can you help?

- 1) **Feed the Machines** – save your quarters, the *Battle of the Home States* has begun!
- 2) **Sign up for a project** – Sort clothes for Foster Children, make Life Books for them, visit nursing homes with PAWS, help out at Harry Chapin, make no sew throws, sew toddler blankets, paint, rake, mulch, make lunches for workers, complete minor home repairs ... there's something for everyone!
- 3) **Pick up a donation card at the Foster Child tree** – many items are needed for children as they enter the Foster Care system. Wanted are new or gently used dress and play clothes, children's toiletries, diapers, etc. The need is greatest for ages up to 10.

"Inasmuch as you did it for the least of these, you did it for me." Jesus



Pancake Supper

February 28

5:30 p.m.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Covenant will mark Shrove Tuesday with a pancake supper in Fellowship Hall. It is generally observed the day before Ash Wednesday, which begins the Lenten season. As the last day of feasting before Easter, Shrove Tuesday in many cultures is marked with a meal of rich foods such as sweet, buttery pancakes. Join your Covenant family at this special supper in Fellowship Hall. The supper is sponsored by the Membership and Evangelism Committee, and the cost will be defrayed by a free-will offering.

Please pray for our friends who are unable to attend service:
**Maureen Bashaw, Doris Flaitz,
 Gloria Gibbs and Sue Loman.
 God Bless You!**

Lenten Devotionals are available in the front office.

Compliments of the Christian Education Committee.

MOPS meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 12 in F204. Nursery is provided. If you are interested in volunteering in the nursery, please contact Dawn Castner. Join us this month...

February 14—Craft & MOPSwap

February 28—Kindness

