

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY

The Session met on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 with Rev. Jeff DeYoe moderating the meeting and eleven elders in attendance. Others present: Mary Kay Kuerth, Deacon; Gary Brothers, Facilities Manager; and Barbara Heflin, Clerk of Session.

- Approved changing the date of the Stated Meeting of Session to Tuesday, June 27, 6:30 pm due to a conflict with Vacation Bible School.
- Approved the 2017-2018 Concert Series: November 10 - Dick Hyman, Jazz pianist; December 15 - Annual Christmas Concert; January 19 - Joel Raney, pianist; February 9 - Manni Cadet, Baritone vocalist; February 25 - Washington Saxophone Quartet; March 16 - Annual Spring Concert; April 6 - Woodworks Marimba Quartet and Debra Polkingham.
- Bethany Apelquist, summer intern who has completed her first year at Columbia Theological Seminary, was introduced and will be working for the next 2 months in the different ministries which Covenant has to offer.
- Thanks to Gary Brothers, David Beardsley and Joshua Bruckner, for their hard work in sealing the seams on the roof over the F Building. This resulted in a huge savings to the church.



### Interest for a Church Community Garden (for mission purposes) is Growing!

For those interested in the idea of a church garden, a short "interest" meeting will be held after church on **Sunday, June 11, 11:15 a.m. in room F207**. Check the Connection board and consider signing up to hear more! Ideally, this will involve a partnership with ECHO for guidance on how to begin. There are many churches, and more specifically, Presbyterian churches in our area that have very successful community gardens that support a number of mission outreach ministries. The session has already approved the concept and suggested a small section of property for possible consideration. This will be an "exploring the possibilities" meeting. If you have an interest in sustainable food gardening and mission outreach, please join the meeting!

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

There is a story about a petting zoo that gave children the opportunity to touch piglets, lambs and goats, and speckled chicks. The children especially liked to pet the chicks. The owner of the petting zoo got the chicks for free from a local farmer because they were ostracized, isolated and not treated well by the other chickens that were not speckled. By giving them to the petting zoo, the farmer allowed them space to be the creatures of God created them to be, giving joy to many children. Sometimes human beings can feel the same way, with no fault of their own. They simply need to know their specialness in the eyes of God and how they can give and receive joy through relationship. This is the hear of Jesus' ministry to us. Whether it was the woman at the well, the tax collector, the blind man, the woman in need of healing, and many more who were ostracized and not treated well, Jesus held a special place for them and it made all the difference. Stephen Ministry helps God's people realize that all who are created by God's hand have gifts and graces. For those who feel like "speckled chicks" at times, Stephen Ministers will walk the journey with them as friends, offering Christian caring, empathy, listening, compassion and confidentiality.

Pat Arner 997-9108  
 Sarah Jane Essebaggers 616-502-7086  
 Barb Sheets 995-8881  
 Lyn Sisti-Sommer 656-1595  
 Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe 334-8937

Please pray for our friends who are  
 unable to attend services:

Maureen Bashaw, Doris Flaitz,  
 Gloria Gibbs, and Sue Loman.

God Bless You!

### April 2017 Financial Report

Income for April	\$71,201
Income Year-to-date	\$252,888
Expenses for April	\$54,557
Expenses Year-to-date	\$216,178
Year-to-date overage	\$36,710
Current Balance on Loan	\$240,809
Principal & Interest Paid in April	\$3,938

A complete finance report is available in the church office.

Greetings,

It is a pleasure to welcome Bethany Apelquist to Covenant Presbyterian Church as our summer seminary intern. Bethany has just completed her first year of theological studies at Columbia Theological Seminary (PCUSA) and is pursuing her Master of Divinity degree. Her internship at Covenant is part of her required course of study and is an opportunity for her to learn what it really takes to provide pastoral leadership in the local church setting.

You may wonder how it is we decided on a seminary intern this year and then came upon Bethany. In the Presbyterian Church (USA), as with other organizations and institutions, sometimes it has a lot to do with who you know. In their elementary school years Bethany and her brother grew up at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Palm Coast where I was serving as pastor and Ruth was the Director of Christian Education. Her parents were active in the church and good friends, and Bethany participated in all the Christian education events in the life of the church. Then the family moved to Virginia, but we kept in touch, and even stayed at their home when I ran the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. a couple of years in a row. They found an Anglican church they liked and switched from being Presbyterian to Anglican.

Upon graduation from the University of Mary Washington, Bethany decided to spend a year in the PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer program, working with the homeless in Atlanta. Following that she decided upon seminary.

Towards the end of her 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, Bethany wrote me and asked if I knew of any PCUSA churches in our area open to having an intern for the summer. Her mother grew up here and her grandfather and uncle live here now, so housing her during the internship would not be an issue. I told her I would look into it and went no further than our Session, which allowed me to look into the possibility of bringing Bethany here. One thing led to another and the Session voted at its next meeting to have her come and serve as our seminary intern from May 15-July 31.

Having an intern is an opportunity for us to serve the larger church in a great way, as we help Bethany with her discernment process. There are certain expectations of the seminary in regard to my supervisory role, the establishment of a "supervisory team", and how she is to be involved in many aspects of our congregational life. Please take some time this summer to welcome Bethany to Covenant and be supportive of her ministry goals!

Peace and Grace,  
 Jeff



**How you can help with VBS?**

- > Volunteer to help with transforming CPC into a Maker Fun Factory.
- > Be part of the Leadership Team June 19-23, 2017
- > Donate supplies
- > Spread the word that we have a great ministry event and it's FREE for all children! Go to [www.covpcfm.com/covenant/vbs](http://www.covpcfm.com/covenant/vbs) to register as a volunteer or student.



**Dates to remember...**

- > June 3rd Set construction 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- > June 4th Leaders Meeting 11:30 to 12:30 Set construction 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- > June 5-9 Come during office hours to work on the set. Call Dawn before coming.
- > June 17th Decorating from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch & nursery provided. Please sign up!
- > June 21st Volunteer Appreciation Dinner & Ice Cream Social in Fellowship Hall from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- > June 23rd Clean-up after conclusion of program 12-2 p.m.



**Important VBS Bible Points...**

- > God made you.
- > God is for you.
- > God is always with you.
- > God will always love you.
- > God made you for a reason.



**Thanks for Continued Support of Palestine Olive Oil Sales**

Thank you Covenant members and friends for continued support of Palestine olive oil sales at the special sales event on Palm Sunday. Sales were 26 bottles of oil and 12 packets of Palestine Thyme spice mix. Proceeds from these sales support planting of olive trees; production, bottling and packaging of olive oil; art based emotional therapy for Palestinian children and start-up of new businesses in Palestine. Our next olive oil special sales event will be on World Communion Sunday on October 1, but in the meantime, we still have a small inventory of olive oil and spice mix which can be purchased through the Church office.

**Peacemaking Commitment**



The small acts of kindness are as good as the big acts. Anger is so prevalent in this society. The way to diffuse anger is to do little acts of kindness.

John M. Perkins,  
Internationally known speaker, author and community developer

**MISSIONS CORNER....MISION PENIEL**

Ruth DeYoe reported that work continues on the renovation of the new Mision Peniel space. Mision Peniel is in a new space, and the focus is on the "RE's"—remodeling, reorganizing, rethinking, refreshing, renewing, and rediscovering. An Open House is being planned at the new location very soon. The new address is: 208 Boston Ave, Immokalee, FL 34142; mailing address is P.O. Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34153.

**YOUTH GROUP**

Covenant Presbyterian Church hosts a full calendar of events for all youth in 6th through 12th grade! Sunday school is held every Sunday morning at 9 am before worship. Youth "Fellowships" take place every month on Sunday evenings and include meals, games, activities, music and discussions! A variety of trips, retreats 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](mailto:nanzet@gmail.com) or visit Covenant's "Youth Ministry" page at [www.covpcfm.com](http://www.covpcfm.com).



The New Generation Singers from St. Joseph, Missouri will be returning to Covenant on Tuesday, July 25 for a 7:00 p.m. concert. This group started in 1970 and shares the Christian message through music, both as a group and individually and in their spoken words. They always present an exciting, uplifting service that leaves you with joy and hope. The group of 80 singers will need overnight housing and a breakfast before returning them to the church around 8:00 a.m. the following morning. They come with sleeping bags and pillows so beds don't have to be provided for each guest. Equally important is your presence at the concert so bring friends and help us fill the sanctuary. There is no charge but a free will offering will be taken. For more information or to offer housing, contact Dave or Becky Garrison in the courtyard after church, call at 674-7754 or email to: [ragbagxo@yahoo.com](mailto:ragbagxo@yahoo.com).

**Covenant's Book Club...Brown Bag 'n' Books** meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in F205. Bring your lunch or cup of tea and join us!

Here are the upcoming selections:

**Thursday, June 15, 2017** *The Stars are Fire* by Anita Shreve

**Thursday, July 20, 2017** *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper* by Phaedra Patrick

.... and another road trip for our book club! This trip will be to a book store! We will carpool to visit the Sandman Book Company in Punta Gorda and then go to lunch at the nearby marina. Details about the road trip will be finalized at our June meeting and posted in our CPC Library.

**Thursday, August 17, 2017** *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance

Book selections are available for lending in the CPC Library. For more information, stop by the library or email Jo Ann Leasure at [tcup166@embarqmail.com](mailto:tcup166@embarqmail.com) or Beverly Campbell at [campbell.beverly@gmail.com](mailto:campbell.beverly@gmail.com)

**Sunday Morning Adult Class begins in June.** The class will be from 9 - 9:45 a.m. in F207, facilitated by Barb Sheets, Ruth DeYoe and a variety of class members throughout the series.

**DRAWING ALL THINGS TO GOD: A 12 SESSION SERIES AROUND THE LIFE OF JESUS THE CHRIST**

Jesus' birth welcomed something greater into human form. Through the recorded accounts of his life, Jesus' teachings pointed to a connected way of living in relationship to God, one another, our meals, our positions and possessions, and to the Earth. To people who find themselves detached from such things, who had exhausted themselves and their means, who had forgotten they were created out of the same vibratory frequency (voice) that birthed all things out of no-thing (the Eternal), Jesus came with a message:

*"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."*

Through this short video clip film series, we will just walk awhile together in our skins and see what comes through. We'll hold space to claim the presence of God in Christ in our midst; in the midst of wherever life takes us and wherever life leads us.

The curriculum includes 12 sessions with an accompanying discussion guide. Each week focuses on a different theme, with a different reflection shared by contemporary theologians and spiritual leaders of our day.

Join us for any one of the twelve sessions:

- SESSION ONE // The Work of the People with Fuzz Kitto
- SESSION TWO // Why I love Jesus with Dwight Petersen
- SESSION THREE // Look at Jesus with NT Wright
- SESSION FOUR // God is like Jesus with Brian Zahnd
- SESSION FIVE // The Audacity of Vulnerability with Malcolm Guite
- SESSION SIX // Jesus Freak with Sara Miles
- SESSION SEVEN // The Courage of Jesus with Mike Frost
- SESSION EIGHT // The Jesus Strategy with Father Greg Boyle
- SESSION NINE // Watch Go Down Moses with John Perkins
- SESSION TEN // Celebrating the Cracks with Stephanie Spellers
- SESSION ELEVEN // The Cosmic Christ with Richard Rohr
- SESSION TWELVE // Birthless and Deathless by James Finley

If you enter the south entrance from McGregor Blvd. and looked to the right I'm sure you noticed big changes in the appearance of our property. Overgrown bushes and tress have been cut back to reveal a large parking lot. Certainly many of us were surprised and unaware of what was there. We would, most likely, all agree that it is much more open and attractive. Much thanks to Dave Beardsley and Joshua Bruckner.