

JUNE 19-23, 2017 * 9 a.m. to 12 noon

At Maker Fun Factory VBS, kids discover not only that God made them the way they are, but for a purpose too. Maker Fun Factory VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos™, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. We are now registering kids and volunteers, so get your registration forms in the front office TODAY for a life changing adventure!



Leaders: Here is the opportunity you have been waiting for to minister to children in our community and in our church. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** for the following: Games, Bible, Snacks, Imagination Station, Crew Leaders and decorating. If you would like more information on how you can volunteer, please contact Dawn Castner at 239-334-8937 or cpcpublications@gmail.com

STEPHEN MINISTRY What are the words almost every senior does not want to hear? The dreaded, "Well, now that you've graduated what do you plan to do with your life?" The pressure that that puts on the graduate is immense. What the questioner is asking is, "Are you going to be a productive member of society? Do you plan on putting your degree to use? Have you got a job lined up? When do you think you'll start?" That's a lot for a young person; yet ask anyone, at any age who has been "excused" due to cutbacks, the same questions apply pressure. Some may have their life organized and can clearly see what they want and how they will go about achieving that goal. However, for many it is as if the ground has fallen out from beneath them and they are sometimes in a state of shock. Yes, they will get everything together. Yet during that time, no matter the age or situation, a Stephen Minister is ready and willing to walk alongside sharing, Christian confidentiality, compassion, listening, caring. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from this service, please, don't hesitate to ask. We are here to help.

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



REQUEST FOR THOSE WHO LIKE TO SEW: The Mission Committee has received a request for those that can hem shorts for the Inasmuch foster kids. Donate4kids acquired an abundance of jeans that need hemmed into shorts. They are cut to the desired length and ready for you to sew them. If you would like to help, please contact Pat Arner 239-850-0423 or Jef Farlow 217-493-9263.

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, May 18, 2017
I've Always Loved You by Robin Oliveira
Thursday, June 15, 2017
The Stars are Fire by Anita Shreve



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 or Beverly Campbell at campbell.beverly@gmail.com

MAY 2017



The Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian

The Clarion

Greetings,

As I look back on my calendar, I never cease to be amazed at how much we pack into the months of March and April as a church. In the five years I have been here, it is the same experience each year. Part of this has to do with the fact that many of our winter visitors come and desire to be fully engaged in our work and mission while they are here. That truly is a great blessing, not only for Covenant Presbyterian, but for the community their commitment impacts.

We kicked off March by Celebrating the Gifts of Women in worship and afterwards on the first Sunday of the month. Once again we were very involved with the INASMUCH mission blitz in the downtown Fort Myers area. There were more than 100 Covenant Presbyterians involved in many needed mission efforts in the heart of our city. For all who were engaged in this important work of local mission, there are many wonderful stories of important connections made, as we seek to share the hope of Jesus Christ with many who need to experience it firsthand. At the end of the month, 30 members from CPC attended the Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (L.I.F.E.) Nehemiah

Assembly where we had an opportunity to meet for the first time as a large group (800 local Christians and Jews in attendance) with Fort Myers Chief of Police Diggs, as well as our City Manager and our State Attorney. At that assembly, we learned that our good efforts at getting local law enforcement to issue more civil citations to youth who commit non-violent crimes that are not felonies, so they won't have permanent records that could keep them from educational and employment opportunities, is now being championed in both houses in Tallahassee. Local L.I.F.E. leadership is making very good headway in this regard. The biggest part of our conversation this year had to do with addressing the unsolved murders in Fort Myers and enhancing community/police relations in our city. It was good to hear that our police chief, city manager and state attorney are all on board in this effort and the L.I.F.E. organization will continue to monitor progress. Covenant Presbyterian is one of the larger congregations involved in L.I.F.E. and we have had a number of members involved in leadership roles in past years.

Also in March and April, we received gifts for our One Great Hour of Sharing, which is not only a Presbyterian effort, but one shared by 7 other mainline Christian denominations. The money received helps us in our efforts to feed hungry people, offer disaster assistance, and support programs that help with the self-development of underprivileged people. As always, these have been wonderful and blessed times, and I am grateful for all the commitment that comes from those who live here year-round, but also those who come for part of the year but fully engage.

Now here's where I am heading with this in the season of Christ's Resurrection. Matthew 28 tells us that before his ascension, Jesus commissioned his disciples to: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

There was no doubt among Jesus' followers what teachings they were to hang onto: *bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to captives, recover the sight of the blind, let the oppressed go free, (Luke 4), and, give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, visit the imprisoned (Matthew 25).*

The big events of March I have spoken about—all the work that goes on in the months that lead up to them, as well as the follow-up work that comes later—is exactly what the post-Resurrection Christ calls us to do in his Great Commission. It is a blessing to be part of a congregation that seeks to take that seriously! Well done good and faithful servants!

Peace and Grace, Jeff

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL

The Session met on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 with Rev. Jeff DeYoe moderating the meeting and nine elders in attendance. Others present: Beverly Campbell, Deacon; Gary Brothers, Facilities Manager; and Deborah Maurer, Clerk of Session pro-tem.

- Approved changing the date for the New Generation Singers Concert to Tuesday, July 25, 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.
- Approved Beverly Grady, Trustee, to hire her law firm Roetzel & Andress to handle the closing of the loan at a cost of approximately \$1800.
- Approved the job description for the summer intern, who is attending Columbia Theological Seminary, and will be part of our staff for approximately 2 months. Pastor Jeff will be her supervisor. While in Fort Myers, she will live with her grandfather.
- Gary Brothers and his helper, Joshua, have sealed approximately 400 feet of seams in the roof with approximately 300 ft. remaining to complete the job. He is receiving bids from roofing companies now to re-roof all the buildings with the exception of the sanctuary.
- Nancy Mead commended Eric Nanz, Stephanie Barclift and others for a job well done with the nine confirmands who were received into membership on March 26th. It was a very powerful time reading their Statements of Faith at the Session meeting.
- Teddy Hogle reported the Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held on May 21st following worship. A representative from Thornwell will make a presentation at the luncheon. Lunch will be provided by Honey Baked Ham and reservations must be made 2 weeks prior by signing up in the courtyard. Everyone is invited - men and women.

New Adult Sunday Morning Class Series Has Begun "In This Together: Loving Our Way Forward"

This new series is coming forward at a time when coming together is so very important. Each week offers guided discussion opportunities for addressing key areas of fracture with ideas on coming together regardless of race, nationality, faith, sexual orientation, as one humanity for the healing of the world. Come join us on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 a.m. in F207.

COVENANT IS SERVING AT MISIÓN PENIEL ON FRIDAY, MAY 26TH

Misión Peniel is one of the missions we serve with our time, talents and resources. It is a mission that works directly with the farm worker community in Immokalee. Every six weeks or so, Covenant sends a group of volunteers to help prepare and serve meals to 500-700 farm worker families. We also assist with donation organization and distribution. The commitment for serving is from 2-6:30 p.m. Those interested in traveling together can meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. and ride together in the church bus. Volunteers will return to the church by 7:30 p.m. Please sign up in advance by calling the church office or adding your name to the list posted at the Connection Board. Now that Misión Peniel has moved to a much larger space, we are not limited to 14 volunteers.

March 2017 Financial Report

Income for March	\$44,364
Income Year-to-date	\$181,687
Expenses for March	\$53,106
Expenses Year-to-date	\$161,621
Year-to-date overage	\$20,066
Principal & Interest Paid in April	\$3,938
Current Balance on Loan	\$243,780

A complete finance report is available in the church office.

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

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

God Bless You!



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 or visit Covenant's "Youth Ministry" page at www.covpcfm.com.

Youth Activities for May:

- 5/7 Sunday School and Pool Party at the Sawyers (11:15am – 4:00pm)
- 5/14 Mother's Day (No Sunday school or YG)
- 5/17 Wednesday Youth Band Rehearsal (7:00 - 8:15pm)
- 5/21 "Graduation" Sunday & Sky Zone (11:15am – 2:30pm)
- 5/28 Memorial Day Weekend (No Sunday school or YG)



Ruth and I would like to thank Covenant Presbyterian Church for the April 2nd surprise celebration of our being here for 5 years. It has been a fast, and most wonderful time onboard with you in common ministry and mission! It was quite a surprise to us, and I still marvel at how, with so many involved in the planning of it for quite awhile, that I somehow didn't get advance notice. That made it an even more wonderful surprise. It is with much a love and thankfulness that Ruth and I continue to look forward to life at Covenant for years to come. Once again, thank you for your love and support.
Sincerely, Pastor Jeff

Peacemaking Commitment

A nation is only as just as its systems and institutions. The systems and institutions are only as just as the individuals who lead them.



Rev. Dr. William Glover
Pastor, Mount Herman Ministries, Ft. Myers
Co-founder and Executive Board Member, L.I.F.E. Coalition

LIFE Nehemiah Action Report

The March 28, 2017 LIFE Nehemiah Action meeting at St. Columbkille Catholic Church was very successful. The Fort Myers Chief of Police, the Fort Myers City Manager and the State Attorney responsible for Fort Myers all attended the Nehemiah Action and all enthusiastically responded "yes" to the several LIFE "asks" (requests for action) to address the high number of unsolved murders in Fort Myers. The LIFE asks were all consistent with the recommendations of the recent audit of the Fort Myers Police Department by the independent consultant Freeh Group International Solutions.

At the Nehemiah Action, LIFE also reported on its success working collaboratively and actively with other DART affiliates throughout Florida on statewide action regarding Civil Citations in lieu of arrests for first time juvenile misdemeanor offenders. This has proceeded to introduction of initial bills into both the Senate and House of the Florida Legislature. Several recent LIFE "calls to action" for LIFE activists to call Florida legislators and request priority for these bills passage in this year's session were answered with a "blizzard" of phone calls from LIFE participants including many people from Covenant making multiple calls each. Thank you to all Covenant members and friends who made phone calls.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

SPRING GATHERING

May 21, 2017



Guest Speaker:

Jean Hommrichhausen

Advancement Officer

Thornwell Home for Children