



**Covenant Returns to Misión Peniel on Friday, November 17th-  
Volunteers of all ages welcome!**

Once again, Covenant is building a team of at least, but not limited to, 14 people of any age to serve the farm worker community in Immokalee on Friday, November 17th. Covenant sends a team of volunteers about every six weeks to help with the mission. While there, volunteers help sort clothing and other donations for distribution as well as help prepare the carry out meals and bags of non perishable food items to be shared with the community from the mission. Volunteers who sign up at the Connection Station board in the courtyard (or by calling the office) are asked to clarify whether they will drive themselves or take the church bus. Volunteers are asked to arrive at the mission, now located at [208 Boston Avenue](#), at [2 p.m.](#) and plan to stay [until 6:30 pm.](#) Volunteers are asked to bring the following: Your own water bottle (water cooler refills available), a hearty snack to eat and to wear comfortable shoes. The church bus departs from Covenant [around 12:30](#) and returns by [7:30 p.m.](#) The bus may make an additional stop prior to arriving at the mission (snack purchase, farmer's market). An orientation to the mission is provided before serving begins. Please visit the mission's website and if on Facebook, check it out for the latest photos of service teams! website: [www.misionpeniel.com](http://www.misionpeniel.com) and Facebook page: "Mision Peniel". Additional information about donations and serving guidelines are on the website. Questions? Contact Ruth DeYoe at: [ruthdeyoe@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdeyoe@gmail.com)



*A huge Thank You to the Fellowship Committee and Christian Education Committee for all your hard work and dedication in expanding our Fall Festival to include our friends at the Spanish church MITDA. It was a truly wonderful day of building stronger friendships and giving thanks for all of our many blessings.*

**SAVE THE DATE for Covenant's "ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET"**

This year's alternative Christmas gift-giving marketplace will be set up **for one Sunday only: December 3rd, following morning worship** in the courtyard. This is Covenant's fourth year for offering an alternative "shopping" marketplace and we hope you will consider shopping "alternatively" among the many mission tables that will display Christmas giving opportunities to missions that Covenant supports. Shopping "guides" will be provided over the weeks prior to Dec. 3rd to help you prepare for this special opportunity. We will also be setting up an "ANGEL GIVING TREE" in November with ornaments containing specific information about a local child in need with his or her wish list for Christmas. You are invited to select an angel card, shop for that child and return the gifts unwrapped to the church by Dec. 10th.

This event is sponsored by Covenant's Mission Committee. Covenant will once again be accepting cash, check and credit cards for payment.



**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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# THE CLARION

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**NOVEMBER 2017**

## A Message from our Pastor...

Greetings,

As many of you are aware, our Presbytery of Peace River recently experienced some very meaningful events with leaders, as well as clergy and spouses, from the Presbytery of Matanzas in the nation of Cuba. The Planning Team for our presbytery has been active for many months, and serving on that team from Covenant were both Rev. Winston Lawson, our Parish Associate, and Ruth DeYoe.

The first phase had to do with hosting Revs. Ary Fernandez, Beidy Casas Aragon, and Alison Infante Zamora. Ary is the Moderator of the equivalent of the General Assembly of the Cuban Presbyterian Church, Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Matanzas and professor at the Presbyterian Seminary in Matanzas. Beidy, who is married to Ary, is the Associate Pastor at the Matanzas Presbyterian Church. Alison is Pastor of Juan Hall Presbyterian Church in Cardenas, Cuba, and she is also the Moderator of Matanzas Presbytery. Ruth and I had the great pleasure of hosting Ary and Beidy in our home while they were here. There were opportunities for them to meet with leaders and pastors in our presbytery, and then all three of them spoke at a presbytery-wide event at Faith Presbyterian Church in Cape Coral. They shared some important history about Cuba of which I was not aware, and also talked about the creation of a partnership between their presbytery and ours.



The second phase happened when eighteen of us from this presbytery (clergy and spouses—including Ruth and myself and Winston and Verona Lawson) traveled to Havana in order to participate in a clergy/spouse retreat between our group and theirs in Varadero, which is a resort town on the Caribbean (two hour drive from Havana). They picked us up in an old blue school bus owned by the presbytery, with the website [www.pastorsforpeace.org](http://www.pastorsforpeace.org) written across the side.

We stayed in the "all-inclusive" resort for two nights while we had our retreat, meticulously planned by the team from our presbytery and theirs, in which both Ruth and Winston took active roles. When I say "all inclusive" there was one thing missing: The top of the hotel! Hurricane Irma ripped off the very top skylight structure designed to provide an open-air feeling for the hotel commons area. Compliments of Irma, it truly was open-air...and a tad humid when we were not in our rooms or the restaurant. Other than some additional outside work on the façade, the resort provided a very nice stay, however.

The retreat time together was very meaningful, and we began to develop important relationships with members of the Presbytery of Matanzas. Following our formal retreat time on Saturday, we all ventured to the different churches where every pastor in our presbytery would be preaching. Ruth and I, and our host pastor, took the bus (again) and then a taxi to Union de Reyes, a town of 2400 in sugar cane country about an hour southeast of Havana. This was our chariot for the second half of the trip on Saturday, and then back to Matanzas on Sunday. (See photo on next page.)



It was wonderful to spend Saturday evening talking to our host pastor, Liz (right between the ages of our daughter Tina and son, Aaron), about her vision for ministry in this church and community, which she just began to serve about a month before our arrival. I was well reminded of my experiences as a young pastor beginning to serve in rural parts of Kansas and Minnesota.

The next morning I preached in a sanctuary, about the size of the one I started in, to 17 women and one old guy sitting in the back pew. Ruth did a marvelous job translating my sermon (at least I think she did). That afternoon we visited a Roman Catholic neighbor down the street, and you can hear that story in the sermon I preached the Sunday I returned to Covenant, here: <http://covpcfm.com/covenant/sermons/> (entitled "Saint Lazaro").

Following our time in Union De Reyes, we stayed at the Presbyterian Reformed Theological Seminary in the beautiful city of Matanzas Sunday night and had an opportunity to meet with a number of seminary students. Then on Monday, our last day, we toured old Havana and stayed at an historic Roman Catholic convent and retreat center in the old city.

What was most important about this trip was forging new relationships and continuing a conversation about what our partnership between the Presbytery of Peace River and Presbytery of Matanzas will look like in the future. Even while history and ideology have kept us separate from each other for a long time, this opening has been meaningful for both sides. Through it we truly understand how Jesus Christ unites us and his Spirit helps us transcend our temporary, worldly separations and differences. As we forge a relationship between presbyteries, the PC(USA) is also forging a lasting partnership with their denomination through its Cuba Partnership Network (of which Winston Lawson is a member).

Our presbytery's next step is to provide opportunities for more SWFL Presbyterians, beyond just clergy and spouses, to interface with lay Presbyterians from Cuba. We will keep you posted. Please pray for this ongoing work and relationship building, as led by our presbytery planning team, to insure that these relationships will deepen in the months and years ahead!

In Christ, *Jeff*

### **Palestine Olive Oil Sales a Sell Out**

Thank you Covenant members and friends for continued support of Palestine olive oil sales at the special sales event on World Communion Sunday last month. We sold out all 24 bottles of oil and had to do several back orders. 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 at the Covenant Alternative Christmas Market on December 3. We will also be selling Palestine Thyme spice mix at this event.

**PW BIBLE STUDY**—Presbyterian Women are studying "Cloud of Witnesses" The Community of Christ in Hebrews by Melissa Bane Sevier. Pastor DeYoe will conduct a study on November 6th at 10:45 a.m. in room F205. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

**Naomi Circle - 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.**

**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.**



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The glass slipper that fit Cinderella's foot when she was a young woman may not be the correct size for the older Cinderella. Although the slipper remains the same size, it's the foot that has changed. And so has the woman, much like many of us. Over a period of years all Cinderellas have cared for children, carried babies on their hip, schlepped groceries, picked up toys, neatened other people's messes, fussed and worried over friends and family, and, in general, changed. The ability to understand sacrifice has become more than words; it has a deeper understanding of what a parent, a spouse, a relative, or friend does for the ones they care about. It can bring a closer relationship to God and the labors, love, and sacrifice He made for us when He gave us his son, Jesus. Our love for God is much like Cinderella's foot: slim and trim when we are young but broader, fuller, with more understanding of a deep and abiding love as we age. The glass slipper of our youth might have been lovely, but the worn, welcoming warmth of our old slipper reminds us of the love and sacrifice God made for us when He sent his son to save us.

If you would like to talk to a Stephen Minister about your journey with Jesus, please, don't hesitate to ask. We are here to share Christian listening, Confidentiality, Caring, and Community with you.

Pat Arner: 850-0423 \* Sarah Jane Essebaggars: 616-502-7086 \* Barb Sheets: 995-8881  
Lyn Sisti-Sommer: 656-1595 \* Rev. Dr. Jeff Deyoe: 334-8937

Covenant Presbyterian Church hosts a full calendar of events for all youth in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade! Youth Bible Study is held Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. before worship. Youth fellowships take place every month on Sunday at various times 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](mailto:nanzet@gmail.com).

### **Youth Activities for November:**

- 11/3-5 Cedarkirk Family Camp (No YG/Sunday school)
- 11/12 Sunday School & Afternoon Youth Group (9am – 1:15pm)
- 11/14 Tuesday Night Fundraiser at the DQ on US-41 (5pm – 8pm)
- 11/17 Friday Night Dinner, Movie, Lock-in (6:30pm- 8am)
- 11/19 Sunday School (Afternoon activity to be announced)
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Break (No YG/Sunday school)





**Women of the Church  
Craft and Bake Sale  
will be on Sunday, November 19th  
in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Donations of crafts and baked goods  
from the congregation are welcome.**

**The 2018 Wednesday Morning Live series**

The "Wednesday Morning Live" community lecture series 2018 has a great lineup for you. 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, Teddy Hogle, and Don Berglund.

Jan 3	Jeff DeYoe	Feb 7	Amy Bennett Williams
Jan 10	Jack Mutzebaugh	Feb 14	Dorothy Dodson
Jan 17	Jerry Frost	Feb 21	Pastor Miguel Estrada
Jan 24	John Sheppard	Feb 28	Warren Apple
Jan 31	Rick Burnett		

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host screenings on Monday, January 29, 2018. 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](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).**

*"Leisure Time Book Club"* meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in room 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 CPC library or email Beverly Campbell at [campbell.beverly@gmail.com](mailto:campbell.beverly@gmail.com)

**Thursday, November 16, 2017** *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor (reprinted in 2015 in paperback)

**Thursday, December 21, 2017** *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult (published Oct 2016)

**September 2017 Financial Report**

Income for September	\$48,679
Income Year-to-date	\$472,422
Expenses for September	\$51,351
Expenses Year-to-date	\$484,220
Year-to-date deficit	\$11,798
Current Balance on Loan	\$393,923
Principal & Interest Paid in September	\$4,094

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



Covenant's Community Garden Project has a name - **TOGETHER WE GROW: A Mission Garden of Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
Our next garden gathering will be Saturday, November 11, from 9 a.m. - Noon for a workday clearing the grounds. Bring your garden tools, gloves and join the fun as we continue to move forward with this ever evolving garden space!

**CPC offices will be closed on Nov. 23 & 24**

**Fall Sunday morning adult classes meet upstairs (via the elevator or stairs) from 9 - 9:45 am in F207.**

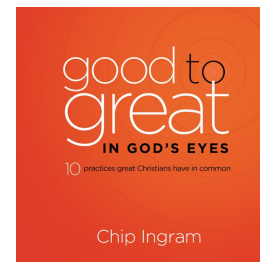
Each Sunday's class begins with welcoming introductions, followed by a short video clip that opens up into open discussion about relevant matters of faith. Facilitated by Barb Sheets and Ruth DeYoe.

**In November: Allegiance to Empire: Practices of Kingdom Citizenship**

This series explores ways in which the Christian community can serve the world and at the same time be faithful to God's vision of the Peaceable Kingdom. Over a seven week period we will look at the myth of the "Christian" nation and re-narrate what it means to live as residents in a foreign land.

- November 5 —Citizenship as Justice Work: "Doing the Gospel"
- November 12 — Citizenship as Cruciformity: "The Cruciform Way of the Lamb"
- November 19 — Citizenship as Relating to the Other: "Restoration of Relationships"
- November 26 — Citizenship as the Image of God: "Witnessing through Baptized Eyes"

**All are welcome to participate in this inclusive class community!**



Are You Tired of the "Status Quo" Christian Life? Do you dream of making an eternal impact in the Kingdom of God? Do you long for a spiritual breakthrough? If you're looking to go to the next level or get a fresh infusion of faith and spiritual passion, then look no further than this group study. In this series, Chip Ingram uses Scripture, personal stories, and examples from real Christians who left an indelible mark on the world to offer clear steps to becoming great in the things that matter most. These steps are not intended to earn God's favor or to impress other people; however, they are an opportunity to fulfill the highest and best purposes God has for your life. Learning how to apply the practical principles in this study will jump-start your relationship with God by providing you with a practical and Biblical means to go from good to great ... in God's eyes.

The Christian Education Committee is offering this new opportunity to those who would like to grow in their faith and fellowship at Covenant and find that the time after worship fits your schedule better than before worship. This class will be held Nov. 12 (Pursue Great People) and Nov. 19 (Dream Great Dreams) from 11:30 to 12:30 in F202/203. The classes will run simultaneously with Youth Group, Children's Choir and Nursery Care so that young people will have a fellowship experience as the grown-ups grow in their faith with other adults. Please register at the Connection Station.



### Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, December 3

Join us for this annual tradition in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. with cookies and wassail in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

Any children or youth that would like to be a part of the service, please sign up at the connection station or contact Dawn Castner.



### Peacemaking Commitment

The refugee, not the settled citizen, was the norm in both the Bible and in Geneva, the birthplace of Reformed Theology by John Calvin and others.

The notion of citizenship that would eventually appear in Western democracies was not practiced in early Reformed communities. The practices of Geneva and other early Reformed communities suggest that refugees, as a group of people, were to be welcomed rather than snubbed.

As Presbyterians think about immigration in the United States, individual Christians and churches are called on to stand for their convictions, putting God above country and remembering that God alone is Lord of the conscience. Biblically, we are called to welcome whatever immigrants or refugees end up in the United State, however they got here. The convictions behind these practices can be described as elaborations on a basic teaching of Jesus: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:39).

Charles Wiley III, Associate Director of Theology, Formation & Evangelism for the PC(USA) Mission Agency



### Saturday, March 3, 2018

Inasmuch is a one-day mission blitz opportunity for us to help those in need. Join with other Fort Myers congregations while we paint, clean, rake, visit shut-ins, make food for the workers, sort clothing, and much more.

Parents, please bring any "like new" used clothing and backpacks for the Foster Children to the church office at any time. Also, The Battle of the Home States continues, so save your quarters for "Feed the Machines!"

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



### Dick Hyman, Jazz Pianist Friday, November 10, 2017

7:30 p.m.

Renowned jazz pianist and composer Dick Hyman inaugurates our 2017-18 series with a performance entitled "Early Jazz Piano and Ragtime." This concert features his incomparable interpretations of pieces by Joplin, Confrey, Fats Waller, and James Johnson.

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

Nancy Albright, Jean Arthur, Lloyd Balsley, Maureen Bashaw, Don Fjellin, Doris Flaitz, Tish Kendall, Sue Loman, Jean Miller, Catherine Shackelford, Pat Schmidt, Pete Sommer, Anne Wills

**God Bless You!**

We need your current email address for our NEW email service. Please email [cpcpublications@gmail.com](mailto:cpcpublications@gmail.com) to request to be put on our email blast list. We use this tool to get important information out to you concerning Covenant and upcoming events, so make sure you get on the list so you are "in-the-know"!



### We are having a Throwback Family Movie Night on Friday, November 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a family-friendly movie, pizza and popcorn. All Ages Welcome!!!



### Session Highlights for October



The Session met on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 with Rev. Jeff DeYoe moderating the meeting and ten elders in attendance. Others present: Barb Griffith, Deacon; Gary Brothers, Facilities Manager and Barbara Heflin, Clerk of Session.

- Approved the use of Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 16, 2018 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. for the Kantner/Burtch rehearsal dinner.
- Approved the use of Covenant memorial funds to replace the damaged playground equipment.
- Approved the Finance Committee's request to change from our present bank, SunTrust, to Edison National Bank. The operations and procedures at Edison National Bank will be a benefit to Covenant.
- The Finance Committee reminded the committees that budget requests for 2018 are due no later than November 5.
- Gave Barb Griffith and Laura Ruzicho the authority to prepare guidelines for a "Shared Plate" meals program to assist members following major medical issues. The guidelines will be brought to Session for final approval.
- Pastor DeYoe sent a letter of thanks to the First Presbyterian Church, Lumberton, NC for the \$4000 check to aid in hurricane relief following Irma.
- Approved Scholarship Procedure guidelines to assist in choosing students for Book Scholarships, David G. Robinson Scholarship and Judge Robert Shafer Scholarship.