



The Annual Report Covenant Presbyterian Church 2021

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JANUARY 2022 - REPORT OF THE BRIDGE PASTOR FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

⁷⁻⁸ This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.

⁸⁻¹⁰ And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!
Ephesians 3:9-10 (*The Message*)

These words of the Apostle Paul sum up how I feel about the privilege of serving God here with the Rev. Dr. Winston Lawson and all of you during Pastor Jeff's disability leave.

The NIV text puts verses 8-9 this way, and this particular translation has caught my attention for the past decade or so:

“Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, *and* to make plain to everyone *the administration of this mystery*, which was for ages past kept hidden In God, who created all things.”

This long sentence tells me that administration is more than stacking paper in the right piles and files, more than ordering enough paper clips, and so on. The root word used in verse 9 (οἰκονομία) reflects the concept of household management. Paul is, in this passage, talking about how the gospel translates itself through the lives of believers to reveal the workings among the household of God – the church.

We Presbyterians may tend to joke and poke one another in the ribs about liking to do things “decently and in order.” But this principle is important to the testimony we project to the world as we live out our life in Christ together. Having, and following, good process as a church is key as it helps ensure that we don't tread on one another's toes; it ensures we respect budgets, constitutional requirements, and the needs and authority of others; and, quite frankly, it forces us to work together, even when we would prefer to push our own agendas or mimic Frank Sinatra, and just do it “my way.” Good process that has God's purposes and calling in mind helps us love one another and gives us boundaries when we trend toward “thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought.” (Romans 12:3)

My time with you will be short, but we will journey together to ensure that Covenant Presbyterian Church (that's you!) will continue to fulfill God's calling, *God's way*, in Fort Myers, Southwest Florida, and the world. May it be so.

Gratefully serving alongside you,
Rev. Jaci Smith Patman, *Bridge Pastor*

Director of Christian Education

2021 was a challenging year, as we continued to remain faithful to our congregation in trying to provide inspiration and learning opportunities for our members.

Star words were randomly mailed to all members in keeping with the effort made in 2020. As we celebrated Epiphany, these words stayed with us as a reminder throughout the year.

The children received a lesson, a bulletin and a greeting each week as a reminder that we love and care for them even as we are apart. During Lent, each child received a lesson and craft supplies to experience this time through their senses. Each week a new delivery was made as a reminder of our connection. The practice of a weekly lesson continues for those who remain at home.

With session's approval, a new PCUSA curriculum, "Follow Me" was begun in October. This curriculum is all encompassing, as it is presented at all levels, including worship. Each unit is four weeks and has an intergenerational gathering as part of the plan. October found us gathering in the courtyard to pack school bags for disaster relief as we decided to "Follow Jesus". In November, we gathered to enjoy "Stone soup" and tour the garden as we "Welcomed All". December found us "Hope"ing as we decorated the tree in Fellowship Hall and enjoyed lunch and fellowship together. The response has been very favorable as we all focus on what Jesus lived and taught.

Last year's Monday night Zoom gathering has continued with just a brief break now and then. It is a great time to share and learn as we have tackled many relevant issues and are now expanding on the curriculum topic for those who can't be involved in a class.

As we look forward to the new year, may we remember that God is with us and strengthens us. We are blessed with mercy, grace and peace.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sheets, Director of Christian Education

Annual Report
Covenant Presbyterian Church
December 2021
Roberto Tapiz
Director of Student Ministries



It is hard to believe that seven months have passed since I began as Director of Student Ministries at Covenant Presbyterian church back in May of this year. I jumped right in with both regular youth group meetings, youth worship rehearsals and confirmation classes. It was fun getting to know the students and begin to put names with faces and see what incredible people they all are. Many thanks to Barb Sheets for keeping things afloat between the time when Eric left and I started. It is obvious she loves the students and will do anything to ensure that they are supported and taken care of.

One of my goals is to encourage our students in their faith journeys no matter what age they are. I was able to do this both in confirmation and youth group. I often sense students struggling to find the perfect answer to questions we may ask them and with self-doubt. So I made a point of letting them know early on that they have everything they need right now to serve God. They don't have wait until they finish high school, get a college degree or have a high paying job. God can use them right here and now in their schools and other extracurricular activities. I think this went a long way in getting the students to trust me and understand that I am here for them and value them as children of God.

I enjoyed being a part of the youth worship team and getting to know the students in this setting. Music has been one of my life long passions and it is great to be able to pass that on to the next generation. I want them to learn how to use their musical gifts to worship Christ but also learn what it looks like to worship God with their entire lives. This is often a new concept for people but really opens their eyes when they start to let that truth sink in. I'm constantly listening to all kinds of music to get ideas for what songs the students may like to sing during youth worship Sunday. I also use music during our youth group and Sunday school lessons. It is a great way to express biblical truth in a way that is entertaining and easy to understand/remember.



One of the first questions I asked when I started at Covenant was how often they did youth group at the beach. I was surprised to hear that they had never made an official beach day as a youth group. I changed that right away and we had our first, hopefully of many, youth group beach days at Fort Myers Beach.

Much of my first few months were spent preparing the students to go to the Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina. We weren't sure at first if it was even going to happen, but once we got the green light it was all systems go. We were able to raise a significant amount of money in a short period of time and we had eight students and three adults attend. It was a wonderful time of worship, enjoying the outdoors and getting to know the students and other staff better. We were together from 7:30am-11pm every day. The days were filled with worship, small group discussions, keynote speakers and a lot of fun. I was impressed with how our students related to one another and to students from different churches. The week ended with each grade level being prayed for and blowing out their candle to signify the end of the conference and return to regular life. We were able to share our experience with the congregation on Montreat Sunday sharing many of the lessons and songs learned at the conference.



Immediately following our return the students went back to school and their regular slate of activities. Covid restrictions started ramping up again as summer progressed which made it difficult to plan events. Many of our students/families still have not returned to church due to the virus. We currently have a very small group of junior and senior high students that come regularly. We are open to ideas/help from the session and church to brainstorm ways of reaching more students and their families with this important ministry.



I was asked to be part of a communications task force that was looking at updating our website. We were each asked to find a few church websites that we really liked and present them back to the group. I volunteered to look at alternative website options and stumbled upon church app developers. I spent time in many zoom meetings with various app developers and learned that the future of communication and engagement in churches really is in apps. We are still trying to figure out a way forward as there would be additional monthly expenses with a new app but it is essential to engaging the younger generation and their families.

In October I was able to participate in my first Cedarkirk Family Camp. There were several families and their students in attendance. It was a great opportunity to get to know them in the context of their families. Some of my personal highlights from the weekend were late nights playing spoons, taking a cool dip in the river after clearing weeds, jumping from a tree into the river because the students said it was a good idea, and Sunday morning worship outdoors.

My wife and I became members of Covenant Presbyterian Church in November and I have been approved by the session to begin the process of an inquirer for ordination in the PCUSA. I will be meeting with the Presbytery in January and February to officially begin the two year process of ordination.

A few highlights of other things that have happened since I started. We have taken the youth bowling at Gator Lanes, to the Retro Arcade, and to Tropical Breeze Fun Park for mini golf. We had a student/parent lunch and informational meeting to talk about plans for the current school year. We also had a student/family picnic hosted at the Mann's home in Alva. We recently helped decorate the church for the Advent season and went caroling at Springwood Court. I have also been busy attending a variety of extracurricular activities the students are involved in and this is one of my favorite parts of the job.



Director of Youth Band

This has been an incredible year, filled with joys, lessons, surprises as well as great challenges. All in all, I am always amazed at God's faithfulness and love for his people. I am also grateful for those of you who shared God's love with my family and me in this year and we continue to pray for all the congregation of Covenant Presbyterian Church, for all the staff members and their work, particularly for our dear Pastor Jeff DeYoe and his family.

Throughout 2021 I had the pleasure of working with an awesome group of young people, some of the "old" youth, especially Gus Bahruth (Saxophone) , Hayley Sprung (voice) and Maddie Negip (voice)... With them and the new members I was able to continue the work Eric started. Some new members joined the fun (and the responsibility), although not all remained but I'm really honored and very happy with our band and how they assume and fulfill the goals I set for them every month with new songs sometimes and also with traditional hymns made in new versions. Every month we play 3 or 4 songs during the last Sunday of the month's service. Those songs are prepared with care and joy each week in our regular Wednesday night rehearsals. We also practice on the Sunday we play right before the service to review and remember all details. Around the middle of the year (May) we had a big surprise!! One special member joined us from the north with his percussion skills: Roberto Tapiz, who has been a great addition to our band, and to our church. In May Eric Nanz and his family visited us and we all had the opportunity to work together during the service.

I'd like to make a special mention of the Sprung family for their support, showing up week after week and adding members to our band. First the three sisters, Haley, Kelsie and Carissa and since June, Matthew who has been playing percussion, saxophone, singing and maybe someday (who knows?) will be playing guitar, too. He has also been helping with the chorus.

Our vocals include Carissa Sprung, who accepted the challenge of rapping in a song and did an amazing job, and also Kelsie, who lately has been our lead singer and she has shown a lovely and powerful voice. For a while she also played piano. From time to time Caroline Evans, who is also a great singer, joins us.

Our bass player is Sebastian Oliva whose development in the instrument has been remarkable, also already composed his first song that we played in one of the services. A few months ago a little star joined us, Hilda Oliva, she plays the ukulele and brought two of her friends to join the band, the sisters Lisi (piano) and Lily Aleman (percussion). I can't fail to mention Adrian Gagliardi who was with us playing piano from the beginning of this year until August. Last Sunday Dec. 12, along with other youth and children, we shared a little Christmas Concert for the senior residents of Springwood Court in Fort Myers. Thanks to the invitation and organization of Maria Bahruth.

I am committed to continue and develop the work I have done with the youth band and I thank them and their families for their support and commitment. I also thank all those who in one way or another have helped and continue to help this music ministry for and with the youth to continue. I thank our Heavenly Father and I am very excited to think about how He promises to lead us all with love and wisdom and take care of us every day of our lives. May it be so for each and every one of us.

Once again, I want to say that we have an **awesome Youth Band!!!**

"JP"

Juan Pablo Oliva

Director of Music/Organist

The Chancel Choir has served as the principal choir for our Sunday morning services beginning in October. Previous to that we were very fortunate to have smaller vocal ensembles for our online and lives services at times when the pandemic prevented large group public presentations.

The Covenant Concert Choir is comprised of members of the Chancel Choir as well as participants from the community. They performed in our annual Spring Concert and Christmas Concert.

The Jubilate Ringers consist of twelve ringers and has resumed its usual weekly rehearsals. We are especially grateful for the handbell quartets, quintets and sextets that were able to ring on a monthly basis in our services in the absence of the larger ensemble.

The Chapel Choir is an elementary school age group under the direction of Maria Bahruth that ordinarily sings once a month in the Sunday services.

This group remains on hiatus/.

We are very pleased that Juan Pablo Oliva continues on our music staff as the leader of the Youth Band. His considerable expertise as a classical guitarist is also much appreciated.

Our 2020-21 Concert Series featured Covenant musicians in our Spring Concert in March. The full 2001-2022 Concert Series has resumed with performances by guitarist Juan Pablo Oliva and annual Covenant Christmas Concert in December.

We are especially grateful to our choir members, bell ringers and instrumentalists who have volunteered to participate in our Sunday online services under often trying circumstances.. We also are appreciative to Marilyn Leahan and Paul Young for maintaining the Music Department weekly message thread that has allowed us to keep in close contact with our choir members, especially those who are restricting their public activities

Warren Apple, Director of Music/Organist

Facilities Manager

This past year we have continued to be challenged by COVID-19 and the restrictions that have been placed on in person worship. The staff and a few very dedicated Covenant volunteers have worked very hard to come up with ways to accommodate all and deliver a good Sunday worship program.

During the past year there have been several improvements and much need repairs in and around the facility. They were as follows; failing sunscreen beams on the north and west sides of the administration building were removed, the portico that was failing was rebuilt from the inside out which included replacing the very old sprinkler heads. The project was concluded by replacing the roof between the admin building and music room including the portico. We retained the services of Florida Painters to clean and caulk the base of the stained glass windows around the sanctuary, perform painting and pressure washing of the facility. They have performed an excellent job of supporting our needs at a very reasonable cost. My relationship with contractors and diligent bid negotiations for best price and service has saved us about \$30,000 over other bids for these projects. During calendar year 2021 some of the classrooms have been painted and many of the lavatory faucets were changed. One of our largest accomplishments to better serve our remote members and friends of this church installed in 2020 was our live stream system. We've had our struggles but continue to learn and improve the system. I'm thankful and proud of our live stream team, Andrew, Brady and Colby in their delivery of a quality program to those that cannot join us in person.

Our Volunteers

We are all truly blessed at Covenant to have such dedicated volunteers within our church. None of our budget numbers could be kept if it wasn't for the many volunteers that give so much of their time to support Covenant. I cannot thank our regular office workers enough. They are in the office at least 4 days per week, work nights at home to create, print our programs, keep track of activities, attendance and our offerings and so much more. We also have the property volunteers, who in one case gave almost endless hours of his time to help me keep this facility in great condition. I hope that as you read this, stop for a moment and give thanks and thank those volunteers for all they do for our church and the money they save us. We are very blessed.

In Closing:

I live and work in a mindset of how or what can I do today to help others fulfill their purpose, be a good steward of our blessings and to grow and promote Covenant Presbyterian Church. Without the assistance of invaluable volunteers, I could not possibly keep on top of all the daily challenges that are required to keep our church in its beautiful condition and operating efficiently. I am very blessed to be associated with so many generous and talented people.

Respectfully submitted

Gary Brothers

Clerk of Session

2021 proved to be another challenging year for trying to maintain some semblance of the norm, through the creativity of our members and staff. We were able to provide our congregants with worship each Sunday although it seemed like we were in a constant state of flux. However, this didn't stop Pastors Jeff and Winston, along with Warren Apple, Director of Music, Juan Pablo Oliva, Director of the Youth Band, Gary Brothers, Facilities Manager and Deborah Maurer, Worship Committee chair, from working together to provide an in-person worship each Sunday as well as by live-stream. Due to Covid's up and down recurrences throughout the year, the Session continued to review how to safely provide a healthy worship experience each Sunday. As a result, protocols were changed throughout the year.

Programs were limited to small groups or took place on Zoom. Although this wasn't ideal, it did provide a connection with others.

Our elders have been faithful in carrying out their duties under challenging circumstances. The Session and committees met most of the year by Zoom. Although again not ideal, it did provide an opportunity to continue the work of the church. The 2021 Session Committees and the chairpersons were:

Christian Education - Beverly Grady/Maddie Negip	Nominating - Mary Ellen Frost
Communications Committee - Jef Farlow	Property - Rich Ward/Rick Kaserman
Finance - Sam Hamilton/Kent Sheets	Scholarships - Richard Shafer
Human Resources - Mary Ellen Frost/Barbara W. Shafer	Stewardship - David Negip
Membership/Evangelism - Jack Ruzicho	Worship - Deborah Maurer
Missions - Rick Burnette	

The Session also included Moderator of Session, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey DeYoe; Clerk of Session, Barbara Heflin; Facilities Manager, Gary Brothers; and Treasurer, Jack Shea.

Covenant was well represented on several Peace River Presbytery committees who also had to find ways to carry on the work of Presbytery by meeting monthly in Zoom meetings. Committee on Ministry - Rev. Jaci Smith Patman, and Beverly Grady; Finance/Board of Trustees - Rev. Courtney Ducharme; Mision Peniel - Darci Hillyer; Steering Committee - Beverly Grady. We appreciate and thank these individuals for their faithful commitment of their time and talents to the higher church.

Being a Matthew 25 mission-minded church, Covenant supports many missions which include *InAsMuch*, L.I.F.E. (Lee Interfaith for Empowerment), Salvation Army, Keep Hope Alive, Olive Oil Sales, Misi3n Peniel, Cultivate Abundance and Covenant's *Together We Grow* garden which helps provide food for the farmworkers community. Covenant members, Rick and Ellen Burnette, are also helping the farmworkers in Immokalee establish and grow a garden at Misi3n Peniel.

Due to Covid, we were unable to celebrate our annual Eggstravaganza on Palm Sunday for children and families of Covenant and the Lee County Foster Care System, and Vacation Bible School in June. Under the leadership of Barb Sheets and her creativity, she provided activities through Zoom, email and the website to provide a fun time for members and friends of all ages. Thanks for her leadership in these programs. Covenant's families enjoyed their annual weekend at Cedarkirk in October.

The Presbyterian Women's three circles provided a monthly Bible study for members and friends through Zoom. Unfortunately, they were unable to hold their monthly luncheons and the Annual Bake and Craft Sale.

The Concert Series Committee, a sub-committee of Worship chaired by Deborah Maurer, provided the Annual Spring Concert and Christmas Concert following the protocols set forth for worship. Many thanks and appreciation to Dr. Warren Apple, the Concert Choir, Handbell Quintet, and other musicians who found creative ways to provide the beautiful music enjoyed by many. In November, Juan Pablo Oliva presented an evening of beautiful classical guitar music to begin the 2021-2022 Concert Series.

Our outstanding staff of both paid and volunteers, who coordinated and provided support throughout the challenges of 2021, deserve an overwhelming word of thanks.

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey DeYoe, completed his tenth year as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff. Rev. Dr. Winston Lawson, our volunteer part-time Parish Associate, provided wonderful support to Pastor Jeff throughout the year assisting each Sunday in the worship services. Unfortunately, our beloved Pastor Jeff developed major health issues which proved to be debilitating and on November 8th, he began a 90 day medical disability leave. Peace River Presbytery, in conjunction with our Human Resources Committee, assigned Rev. Jacqueline "Jaci" Smith Patman and Rev. Dr. Winston Lawson as Bridge Pastors to carry on the ministry at Covenant. The two pastors reviewed the work load and Rev. Smith Patman took on the role of Leadership and Administration and Dr. Lawson the role of Nurture and Care.

Dr. Warren Apple, Director of Music/Organist, has been challenged throughout the year to find appropriate music for a limited number of singers and handbell ringers. Thanks, Warren, for the many hours which you have given to provide music for the worship services and still maintain a level of quality which Covenant is known for. Warren also oversees an outstanding Concert Series which is now celebrating its 41st year. The Instrumental Ensemble did not meet.

We are fortunate to have guitarist, Juan Pablo Oliva, as our Youth Band director, providing the youth an opportunity to learn and enjoy good music as well as participating in the worship services once a month. He also enhances the worship services with contemporary music each Sunday.

Barbara Sheets, our part-time Director of Christian Education, is doing an outstanding job in providing creative Bible studies and activities not only for the youth but the membership as well!

In May, we welcomed to the staff, Roberto Tapiz, as Director of Youth. Not only does Roberto teach Sunday School to the youth but plans youth group activities throughout the year. In July, they made their annual trek to Montreat Youth Conference and Cedarkirk Camp. In October, the Session approved Roberto's request to enroll in Peace River Presbytery's Inquirers' program as a pastoral candidate working towards ordination in the PCUSA denomination.

Alana Nanz continues to develop an outstanding and newsy Clarion from afar. Modern technology allows her to produce the Clarion and email to Barbara Heflin who oversees the printing and mailing to those who have requested a printed copy. The Clarion is also posted on Covenant's website. Other responsibilities are updating the website, creating numerous publications i.e. Concert brochures and concert programs, and other publications. Our thanks to Alana for the outstanding work which she produces.

Gary Brothers, Facilities Manager, continues to provide strong leadership with his knowledge of computers, property management, and maintenance which has saved considerable funds. Gary gives many hours beyond his designated time. Please tell him how much he is appreciated. Gary has been fortunate in hiring teenager, Colby Ballentine, who is willing to perform whatever task Gary assigns him.

Jean Ann Gogerty, part-time bookkeeper, handles our accounts payable with her professional expertise in finances and provides a monthly detailed financial report.

Barbara Thrasher, part-time custodian, expresses her love for Covenant and the Lord, with a warm smile and a willing attitude. Barbara does a lot of work in her 20 hour work week. Edgardo Alvarado, part-time custodian, provides an additional 10 hours of custodial support. He and Barbara make a good team in maintaining the campus. Please express your thanks to them for all they accomplish.

In addition to a great paid staff, we have many wonderful volunteers who give generously of their time and talents to carry on the ministry at Covenant. We are blessed with wonderful individuals who have “punched the clock” daily since 2008 to fill key staff positions in the church office. Overseeing and accomplishing the clerical tasks of the church are: Barbara Heflin, Administrative Assistant/Office Coordinator; and Mary Callaway, Financial/Membership Assistant.

Other priceless members are church librarians, Sue Christenbury and Beverly Campbell; audio-sound technicians during Sunday worship Scott Maurer, who continues on a volunteer basis and paid staff Andrew Darden, Brady Inskip and Colby Ballentine. The additional staff was required to handle the live-streaming each Sunday. And we would certainly be remiss if we didn’t say a “huge thank you” to David Beardsley and Gary Brothers who work tirelessly performing repairs to the facilities, building and grounds maintenance, plumbing repairs, ground maintenance and other needs on a daily basis.

Each of these volunteers deserve a special “thank you” (even more so during these challenging times) for graciously giving of their time and talents to carry on the work of God’s Kingdom. It is through their faithfulness and commitment to Covenant and the Lord, that we have successfully maintained a positive financial position by limiting paid staff and practicing effective management practice. If there is an area where you would like to volunteer, please call or email bheflin@covpcfm.com. WE CAN USE YOU!

Covenant welcomed Roberto and Traci Tapiz and Maria Lopata into church membership this year.

The Lord also called the following saints home to the Church Triumphant:

Rev. Thomas Frost

Ruth Campbell

Anne Greider

As we turn away from 2021 and move into 2022, we pray that the pandemic will come to an end. We know that we have a faithful God and He will continue to bless Covenant and provide hope for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Heflin, Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons Annual Report for 2021

It has been another eventful year, but fortunately, not quite as fraught with challenges as 2020.

This year once again saw the Deacons keeping in close contact with their Flocks. We have tried to keep everyone informed about the various changes in worship and meeting policies, as well as keeping everyone up to date on special events and happenings in the life of our Church.

As with many other groups in the Church, we have gone from meeting only by Zoom, to a “hybrid” In-Person/Zoom, to finally meeting fully In-Person. While we may never see a complete return to whatever we used to think of as “normal,” it is good to once again be able to be together in the same room as we conduct the business of being Deacons.

While we have not been called on to use our Deacon’s Benevolence Fund as much this year as we were in 2020, thanks to generous donations, we were still able to assist those in need to the tune of \$ 2,472.00.

In November, when word reached us about Pastor Jeff needing to take temporary disability in order to undergo medical treatment, the Board of Deacon’s didn’t just step up to the plate, they leapt to the plate in order to provide whatever assistance they could to Jeff and Ruth. To that end, the Board voted to coordinate providing meals each week as a way of taking some of the pressure of meal planning and cooking off of the DeYoe’s list of chores. We have provided weekly casseroles, soups, salads and desserts amounting to 4 to 5 meals per week. Because of Pastor Jeff’s weakened condition during treatment, it was decided to keep this ministry “in-house” for the foreseeable future in an effort to limit the amount of exposure to their household as much as possible. In addition, the Deacons have committed up to \$ 1,000.00 of our Benevolence Fund to assist with providing meals, nutritional supplements, etc. during this time of treatment and recovery.

In December, the Session voted to add Covenant’s Shared Plate Program to the oversight of the Board of Deacons. Going forward, John Anderson was selected to coordinate the program for the Deacons. He will develop a committee of 2 to 3 other folks to work with him. In addition, the Deacons will assign a Deacon representative to work with the committee. The purpose of Shared Plates will continue to be to ensure that when members of our congregation are suffering or struggling and could benefit from meals, we can enlist the skills of some of Covenant’s wonderful cooks to help lighten their load.

All in all, the Deacons have had a productive year and look forward to a happy, healthy, and joy filled 2022!

Respectfully Submitted,
John Anderson
Moderator

Covenant Presbyterian Church
Deacon's Benevolent Fund

Annual Report
December 2021

Beginning Balance 01/01/2021	\$	6,975.83
Donations		150.00
Total Income		150.00
Expenses:		
Shop With a Cop (Backpacks)		<600.00>
Shop with a Cop (Christmas)		<600.00>
Church World Service (Hurricane Ida Relief)		<1,000.00>
Food Assistance		<182.65>
Utilities Assistance		<223.54>
Food Sharing		<u><15.81></u>
Total Expenses		<2,622.00>
Fund Balance	\$	4,503.83

Respectfully Submitted,

Madeleine Doran
Deacon's Fund Treasurer

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The Christian Education Committee continues its mission of providing meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth for all ages in this most challenging of times. The Christian Education Committee's responsibilities include:

Youth Ministry
Sunday School & Special Events
Pre-school
Vacation Bible School
Adult Education
Family Ministry
Wednesday Morning Live
PW Education
Confirmation

2021 started with continuance of responding to Coronavirus disease COVID 19, with preventive strategies, social distancing, masks, hand washing and the arrival of vaccines. ZOOM and live streaming continued to be a mainstay of connection to others

In February 2021, Christian Education held the “Let’s All Exchange Valentines!” where we exchanged over 200 valentines filled with messages of love and hope within our church community.

The Monday evening Gathering, an adult ZOOM class focused on the “I Ams” spoken by Christ and recorded in the Gospel of John in February and March and moved into the “Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living “ in the fall.

Barb Sheets, Director of Christian Education, provided weekly activities for the K-5 families via email during 2021.

Youth group gatherings met in the courtyard, wearing masks, socially distancing and other appropriate protocols. They began a study of The Lord’s Prayer which continued until the arrival in May of Roberto Tapiz, our new Director of Youth Ministry.

In July, Pastor Jeff, Barb Sheets and Roberto Tapiz and our youth participated in the joyful in-person Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina. Careful protocols were maintained but the opportunity to share with youth from around the country was a welcome journey. Significant time was dedicated to the review of the protocols and the decision to approve in-person attendance at Montreat Youth Conference.

In July Christian Education Committee met in person and recommended the PCUSA Follow Me curriculum which is a 36 month program and which was approved by Session in August. The curriculum has an intergeneration component and includes : Follow Jesus; Welcome All, Hope. Due to the spike in COVID in August, implementation of Follow Me – Follow Jesus started in October.

With joy, Covenant moved to in-person Session, committee meetings along with all youth activities.

In October in conjunction with World Wide Communion Sunday and the Follow Jesus unit, Christian Education prepared school bags, a service project to go to Church World Services.

In October Christian Education joined Covenant in prayers for healing and support of Pastor Jeff and his family.

Cedarkirk family camp weekend, returned in October exploring Psalm 38:4 exploring that the Lord is good through our senses. ..

In November the next unit, “Welcome All“ began regarding Christian hospitality. Hospitality creates a safe, open place where a friend or stranger can enter and experience the spirit of Christ. The first Sunday in November was the intergenerational event celebrating “Stone Soup. The event started with a tour of “Together We Grow Garden” located at Covenant, followed by sharing four soups created from all the vegetables donated by Covenant families from the prior week as part of living the Stone Soup story.

In December we celebrated Advent by beginning the next unit “Hope” with an intergenerational lunch, devotions and creative time making wreaths and ornaments.

We are blessed by Barb Sheets serving as the Director of Christian Education who has shared her many talents our members and children; by Robeto Tapiz who is leading the Youth ministry with his experience and energy; by Juan Pablo who is leading the Youth Band with his expertise and many talents – all helping us remain connected and in touch.

Christian Education Committee recognizes that the church, in this virtual world, is powerful and thriving and this virtual connection will remain an important part of sharing the Word of the Gospel even though we have returned to in-person worship and in-person fellowship. The Christian Education Committee looks to the future in developing a meaningful and vital ministry for the congregation which ministry will continue to build relationships with Christ and with each other.

Respectfully submitted Chair Beverly Grady

Finance Annual Report 2021

A year to remember! A tale of Contrasts. Clearly highs and lows, ups and downs. A time that celebrated God's wondrous blessings and strengthened our Faith that nothing can separate us from the Love of God. Emanuel has been with us as he promised and will continue to until the end of the ages.

Through out these turbulent and uncertain times, God has blessed Covenant with a faithful congregation, committed leadership, dedicated staff and devoted staff. None more so than the Finance Committee: Jack Shea, Nancy Marti, Tom Koester, Mary Callaway and Sam Hamilton. Blessed with the ministerial guidance of Senior Pastor DeYoe and Bridge Pastors Reverends Lawson and Patman.

Blessings of 2021

Mortgage Payoff
Self Insurance - Wind/Hail
Major repair Deferred Maintenance
Strong Balance Sheet

Challenges/Faith Builders

Well being of Senior Pastor and Wife.
Connectivity/Fellowship of Congregation.
Building a Bigger Table together.
Sustainability

The Finance Committee prays for God's continued guidance in its discernment of how best to maximize the blessings He has endowed to Covenant. Hear our prayers as we end this year and begin anew on together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Finance Committee
Sam Hamilton, Chair

COVENANT 2022 BUDGET
(as approved by Session 12/15/21)

REVENUES		
OFFERINGS		\$571,131
DESIGNATED OFFERINGS		\$0
OTHER REVENUE	_____	\$37,123
BUDGET BALANCE	=====	\$25,000
Total REVENUES		\$633,254
EXPENSES		
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES		
ADMINISTRATIVE	_____	\$22,935
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		
Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		\$8,320
EVANGELISM/MEMBERSHIP		\$1,080
FELLOWSHIP		\$3,500
MUSIC		\$4,400
PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION		
MISCELLANEOUS	_____	\$0
PROGRAM		\$163,277
SUPPORT STAFF		\$112,992
PASTOR		\$144,149
Total PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION	\$6, _____	\$420,418
PROPERTY	_____	\$132,541
SPIRITUAL CARE		\$400
STEWARDSHIP	_____	\$1,500
WORSHIP	_____	151
Total OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	=====	\$601,245
MISSIONS		
Total MISSIONS		\$29,722
BANK LOAN	_____	\$0
Total EXPENSES	=====	\$630,967
	Net Total	\$2,287
OTHER EXPENSES		
Total OTHER EXPENSES		\$0
	Net Operating Total	\$2,287

HUMAN RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

First I want to thank the many people who have helped guide us through this year. There have been many changes in staff and job descriptions as our world evolved. Therefore, we have had far more meetings than in other years.

Our committee members Ed Christenbury and Barbara Shafer have provided wisdom and experience to our endeavors. It has been a pleasure to work with them. We are sorry that Barbara Segel was not able to continue because of health issues. Pastor DeYoe counseled us and provided guidance as we dealt with many issues.

General Presbyter, Melana Scruggs, gave generously of her time and experience. She provided calm and stable leadership to Session and led us through the technical, spiritual and psychological journey of this year.

The church staff was available as resource persons. With our changing world, we needed expertise, time and direction from them.

Our Bridge Pastors, Jaci Smith Patman and Winston Lawson are providing leadership to the whole church and to our committee. They were particularly helpful in cooperating and defining their new roles. They are indeed “bridges over sometimes troubled waters”.

1. We have completed, with the help of committee chairs, an organizational manual. It contains descriptions of what our committees actually do. We anticipate it will be valuable as the new chairs assume their positions and the returning chairs start anew.
2. We are still in process of updating all staff positions descriptions. New positions have been created and old positions redefined.
3. Our next big project is updating the Employee Manual so that it reflects reality and is legal.
4. A search committee was established to find a Youth Director. They worked diligently and we hired Roberto Tapiz for this position. It has been a privilege to welcome The Tapiz family into our congregation.
5. Juan Pablo’s status as interim Youth Band Director was changed to permanent.
6. Audio Visual has become a department with several staff members. Due to the need to stream services and events, we needed people with expertise and who could learn the new technology. Gary Brothers has done a great deal of work to upgrade the technology, assist in finding personnel, training them and continuing to supervise their work. Currently, the persons working in AV are, Andrew Darden, Derrin Ebrin, Robert Inskeep, John Anderson and Alana Nanz.
7. It is with sadness that we worked with Pastor DeYoe as he needed to take medical leave and temporary disability to deal with his health issues. We live in hope that he will be able to return to us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ellen Frost,
Chair of Human Resources

Membership/Evangelism Committee Annual Report 2021

As with other committees, this year has greatly limited our activity. There were no new member classes and, as there was no Welcome Station (until recently) and no cards to fill out in the pews. As a result, no calls were made to visitors.

However, thanks to Deborah Maurer and Jeff Coffman, the Purple bags have been kept up and are being passed out as needed in worship. Brochures have been given an update as needed.

Updates are being made to the website to provide relevant information in some areas and removal of outdated programs.

New pictorial directories are on hold until we recover from the pandemic. We will be using a new company as Lifetouch is now only doing schools.

Gathering in His Name, which has been on hiatus, will return after the new year.

L.I.F.E., Lee Interfaith for Empowerment, in which Covenant is involved, along with 14 other congregations from across Lee County, met April 26 for the Nehemiah Action. The important issues this year were Affordable Housing and Criminal Justice. Covenant's team was led by Par Arner, Beverly Campbell, Jef Farlow, Darci Hillyer, Winston Lawson and Patricia Zimmerman.

Current members are Don Berglund, Jeff Coffman, Darci Hillyer, Sandra Roberts

Kent Sheets, Committee Chairman

Mission Committee Annual Report for 2021
Rick Burnette
Chair, Mission Committee

With Covid-19 continuing to impact Covenant, our community and beyond, 2021 was another opportunity for active mission ministry engagement at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

The highlights of 2021 include:

Inasmuch United Fort Myers, a one-day Mission Blitz sponsored by local churches to help those in need, was coordinated at Covenant on March 6 with activities taking place in locations across the community. Results from the day's activities included:

- Assembling 281 Blessings Bags for local unhoused people were filled.
- Two houses were painted.
- 250+ no-sew-throws were created.
- Gift bags were filled for local foster children.
- Volunteers assisted with Feed the Machines at local laundromats.
- Volunteers assisted the Midwest Food Bank with packing and sealing food items.

The Together We Grow Mission Garden, established in 2018, continued to expand areas of production. Now totaling to more than 0.2 acres, production areas include two large field crop and fruit plots located along the east side of the property, with additional papaya and mango trees planted along the edge. Additionally, a small fruit tree stand, located alongside the Fellowship Hall, includes papaya, starfruit, sapodilla, mango, banana, and avocado plants. Four more young avocado trees are growing the west side of the property. These, and other crops preferred by farmworkers in Immokalee (including cassava, sweet potato, cowpea, corn, squash, and black beans) have yielded:

- More than 4,000 pounds of produce that was harvested, and shared through **Cultivate Abundance** and **Misión Peniel**, amounting to over 10,000 servings with a market value of at least \$4,000.
- Since 2018, 8,500 lbs. of produce have been grown and shared, amounting to approximately 19,000 servings with a total market value of \$9,000.
- During 2021, at least 10 volunteers have kept the garden productive.

Covenant engaged in **Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (L.I.F.E.)** through the following events and activities:

- In early April a pre-Nehemiah Action Rally was held on via Zoom. Covenant had 43 people attending with the total number of participants being somewhere between 350 and 400.
- Later in April, over 1,500 people virtually attended the Nehemiah Action including 150 affiliated with Covenant, with positive responses from local officials related to L.I.F.E. initiatives related to affordable housing, civil citations for youth, and mental health training for officers.
- A Covenant L.I.F.E. house meeting was held via Zoom in September and a Zoom annual meeting held in October.

Related to the **Cuba Partnership**:

- Cuban churches, including El Fuerte (Covenant's sister congregation) continued to face major challenges related to Covid-19 including illness and food insecurity. Fortunately, the availability of vaccines late in the year has helped ease the crisis to some extent.
- Covenant continues to contribute towards a presbytery-sponsored seminary meal support program for students, providing \$540 for this year.
- A special relief fund of \$1,000 for the Synod in Cuba was recommended by the Mission Committee and approved by Session and sent according to instructions given in the Cuba Partnership Network.

- Additionally, through the efforts of the Cuba Partnership Network, a container of food relief had been received by the Matanzas Presbytery in October.
- Covenant continues to engage the El Fuerte congregation through the exchange of prayers, greetings, and photos with Pastor Yamilka often joining in the Monday Zoom Bible study.

While maintain Covid-19 social distancing protocols, **Misión Peniel** continued to serve between 300 to 500 clients each week with groceries as well as facemasks, diapers, and hygiene products. In addition:

- With over \$800,000 provided by other agencies, Misión Peniel dispersed Covid-19 relief funds to over 600 Immokalee households to help cover rent, utilities, food, and health care when wage earners were unable to work due to being infected and quarantined. By October, another \$150,000 had been approved for Misión Peniel to disperse.
- Limited numbers of church volunteers were able to reengage on Fridays during periods of lower Covid-19 risk.
- In August, the Presbytery approved - should it become available - the purchase of the Misión Peniel property.
- The Alliance for Fair Housing, which includes Misión Peniel and the Peace River Presbytery, with a goal of developing safe and affordable housing options for Immokalee's farmworkers, celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony on November 10 at the site where farmworker housing will soon be constructed.
- On a weekly basis, Misión Peniel's Pan de Vida program currently distributes three hot meals, groceries, and personal care items to homebound Immokalee residents in special need.

Cultivate Abundance

- At the Misión Peniel Educational Garden, **Cultivate Abundance** staff and volunteers produced roughly 2,500 lbs. of food during 2021 amounting to 9,000 servings with an estimated market value of \$5000.
- Sharing food through Misión Peniel's food weekly distribution efforts, in 2021 Cultivate Abundance grew, collected, and shared approximately 42,000 lbs. of local produce amounting to 126,000 servings with an estimated market value of \$75,000.

The Mission Committee budgeted **\$12,470** for 10 missional initiatives, including L.I.F.E., Cuba Partnership, Cultivate Abundance, Nicaragua ministries, Misión Peniel, Together We Grow Garden, Community Cooperative, Inasmuch, Teen Challenge, and Gabriel House.

As a PC(USA) **Matthew 25 congregation** (of only two in the Peace River Presbytery) focusing on: 1) Building congregational vitality; 2) Dismantling structural racism; and 3) Eradicating systemic poverty, the Missions Committee has been providing occasional reports on our related efforts and has received denominational attention. A banner highlighting Covenant as a Matthew 25 congregation is on display at the church entrance.

Related to building congregational vitality, in 2021, Covenant adopted and implemented PC(USA) educational curriculum on Biblical practices which has also been highlighted during worship. In addition, monthly all-church gatherings have been offered.

In April, **One Great Hour of Sharing**, a special offering that helps to fund PC(USA) efforts that respond to hunger, disaster, and oppression, raised \$2,900.

To enable the committee to better **screen potential new Mission partners** and to provide a **reporting process** for current partners, an application/reporting format was developed and approved. Current partners will be notified, with this document to be distributed to our current mission partners with the understanding that the

reporting process will begin in 2022.

Following a series of promotional videos shared during Sunday worship in November, on December 5, the **Alternative Christmas Market** was held with over **\$10,000** donated for the following ministries:

Organizations

Misión Peniel

Heifer International

Community Cooperative

Salvation Army

Inasmuch Foster Children

Together We Grow Mission Garden

Cultivate Abundance

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee made up of John Anderson, Jeffrey “Jef” Farlow (Chair), Beverly Grady, Marcia Lopata, and Barbara O’Neil submitted the following Slate of Officers for the positions of Elder, Deacon, Trustee, and 2022 Nominating Committee:

ELDERS

Class of 2022: Maurie Salvesen

Class of 2022: Mary Watford-Armes

Class of 2024: John Anderson

Class of 2024: David Beardsley

Class of 2024: Beverly Grady

Class of 2024: Sam Hamilton

DEACONS

Class of 2022: Marion Vale

Class of 2024: Jeff Coffman

Class of 2024: Barbara O’Neill

Class of 2024: Dorothy Mae Wert

Class of 2024: Patricia Zimmerman

TRUSTEE:

Class of 2024: Beverly Beardsley

2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Barbara Chapin

Verona Lawson

Anna Sieman

Richard Ward

Respectfully submitted:

Jeffrey Farlow, Chair

Property Annual Report

During calendar year 2021, the Covenant property committee saw both significant challenges and opportunities. Some of the projects of note in 2021 were the repair and upgrade of lighting., Light poles as well as outward-facing light fixtures covering the Parking Lot and entryways were upgraded and replaced. Due to both the age of the fixtures as well as the tropical climate, this will be a continuing issue through 2022. Roof between Music Room and Administration Building, roof repair on sanctuary and administration buildings, and Portal/Portico concrete removal/regeneration completed, as well as driveway regeneration on East side of ADMIN/Music building. In December, upgrade/replacement of the irrigation pump for the sprinkler/irrigation system was completed.

A steel shed/garage (for which the session appropriated \$40,000.00) was delayed due to the requirement of installation of a Code-compliant concrete slab for construction of the shed. Due to COVID-related issues, as well as fiscal issues combined with the inability to date of locating a contractor that has labor/materials available to complete the project in a reasonable time at a fiscally responsible cost. Any future progress on this issue will require action by Session time once acceptable bids have been received, so this action has been deferred to an undefined future date based on Session other more pressing priorities.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

No Annual report received.

2021 Stewardship Committee

No Annual report received.

Annual Report 2021

Worship & Music Committee

Worship services - January 3, 2021 - February 14, 2021 - continued as Livestream viewing ONLY - only participants, Pastors, liturgists and choir/musicians were on campus. Joined by the Sound Team.

Worship services - February 28, 2021 - March 21, 2021 - Parking lot worship from your car. Platforms were built for the Pastors & Liturgists. Both the pulpit area and the choir were protected by temporary tents. Set up and take down occurred every Sunday by many volunteers and staff.

Worship services - March 28, 2021 (Palm Sunday) through current - returned worship to the Sanctuary with protocols set forth by Session.

Additional Worship was provided by FM radio feed to the Parking Lot, Courtyard Livestream viewing, Health Compromised seating in the Sanctuary Wiggle Room, Unmasked seating in the Sanctuary wiggle room depending on the Session protocols being followed at the time.

Livestream worship has been available each Sunday. Links are sent by the Sound Team on Fridays to those members & friends that have requested to be included on our email breaking news. Worship goes LIVE at 9:45 each Sunday morning. Viewing is available through our Covenant website, VIMEO, You Tube and Facebook. The service may be viewed at a later time through the links or platforms.

Our Sound Team includes 3 paid techs and Scott Maurer remains a volunteer. Gary Brothers oversees all of them and their schedules. Thank you all for your dedication and for providing us Livestream each and every week.

Beverly Beardsley organizes our Ushers and Safety team each week. We currently have 25 ushers with 5 being team leaders. Safety is a team of 7.

Ginny Shea oversees flowers for the Worship Service. Currently fresh flowers are by request. If you want to give flowers in honor or memory of someone, please contact Barbara Heflin in the church office. The Board of Deacons distributes flower bouquets to members/friends after the worship service.

Communion is celebrated the 1st Sunday of each month. Preparation of the individual cup/wafer is handled by Connie Willhite. Communion is distributed to congregants outside the Sanctuary doors.

Our Chancel Choir has provided outstanding music all year either inside or outside. Dr Apple has worked miracles with

either 8 vocalists or 25 depending on the Sunday. Thank you to Dr. Apple and the choir for your patience and grace.

The Jubilate Ringers have provided music at least once a month with either a quartet or quintet to meet the Session's protocols of social distancing. Our hope is to return to a full 12 member, 5 octave choir in early 2022.

And, last but certainly not least, Worship would not happen without Pastoral staff and the unpaid staff and volunteers that prepare the service each week, including bulletins and slide presentations for the Livestreaming.

Again, Worship & Music committee have maintained expenses this year and remain under budget at the end of 2021. With Session approval, the Handbells were sent out for refurbishment which was \$4372.19 This maintenance was long overdue (should occur approximately every 5 years and we were well beyond that time frame)

Concert Series (sub- committee of Worship) provided a Spring Concert, April 9, 2021. The concert included the Music department of Covenant. Currently, the Concert Series is providing a full 2021 -2022 season - 6 concerts, celebrating our 41st season which began in November with our own Juan Pablo Oliva. The Christmas Concert was December 10th with a variety of music by our own choirs. Concert Series continues to be totally self - sustaining supported by Friends of the Concert donations and the free will offering that is taken on Concert evenings.

We look forward to 2022 with exciting worship experiences, providing a place and time for our church community to gather and worship and ready ourselves for the week ahead. Thank you to all that make it happen!

Deborah Maurer

Chair, Worship & Music Committee

Covenant Presbyterian Church Prayer Shawl Ministry

Due to Covid restrictions The Prayer Shawl Ministry did not resume meeting until September 2021. As a result we only met three times. Attendance was limited, but we did have new people join us. Some members had been working on shawls at home and those were delivered in September.

One of the oldest ministries in the history of Covenant Presbyterian Church, the beautiful shawls, in comforting colors, are completed by members who attend monthly meetings. They may finish the work at home and/or during meetings. Completed shawls are folded and placed in zip lock bags with a card bearing the name of the crafter. The card has a devotional sentence, indicating that it is a gift of the ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church. At each meeting a prayer is said over completed shawls. Members participate in the prayer by placing their hands on the shawls.

Shawls are stored in a cabinet in F207. Deacons, or others, visiting the sick or those in need of comfort, may select a shawl most appropriate for the recipient. Persons taking shawls sign them out on a clipboard on the cabinet door. This helps to let us know names of recipients. Shawls may be given to non-Covenant members as long as they have ties to the congregation.

Materials are available to anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting. More participants will be most welcome.

A few shawls have been placed in the rear of the Sanctuary for those who get chilled during services. If someone is in need, please see an usher. We ask that these shawls be returned at the end of the service. They will be washed and returned by Prayer Shawl members.

This is an important ministry of the church. Shawl recipients are touched by their beauty and the kindness and thoughtfulness of the creators. Meetings are a time of fellowship and conversation. Being a small group we have the opportunity to get to know one another. New members are always welcome. Shawls can be made at home and delivered to the church office. If you are one of these people, please attach your name to the shawl so that the card attached to it can bear your name.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Marti, coordinator

Covenant's Library Report 2021

Covenant's Library is a hidden gem that is available to all who attend our church. Most of our books are donated by our church members after they have read them. The "Leisure" Time Book Club selections can be found in our Library. Our Library was closed in March 2020 and 17 months later volunteers started working on reopening. In September 2021, we reopened. Fortunately, there is no charge for overdue books at Covenant!

Our Annual Book Sale each January helps raise money for supplementing our shelves with current best sellers. It is also a way to take some books off the shelves to make room for new books. There is a "Wish List" at the library desk to make a book purchase request.

All ages are welcome each week to stop in and take out a book, but we especially like having our young people enjoying our library books. One of the suggestions for improving our Library have been to showcase our Children's Books selections. Families are encouraged to donate children's books as they outgrow them. Any duplicates of children's books are donated to Mision Peniel.

The WiFi in the Library area was upgraded in November 2021, which facilitates better zoom meetings and better Google searches for our reference librarian. The Book Club now meets in the Library with Zoom.

We want to Thank our faithful Volunteer Librarians, Sue Christenbury, Della Bovey, and Shirley Wagenseil who have been "checking us out" through the years! Our Volunteers were categorizing books, covering books, shelving books, and recommending books every Sunday to those who stopped by our Covenant library. While everything was shutdown, Della retired to Texas and Sue and Shirley are looking forward to less volunteer hours. The "Leisure" Time Book Club has set up volunteer signup sheets in the library for anyone who can donate time on a Sunday morning to help. Nancy Marti, Mary Armes, Marion Vale, Mary Ellen Frost and Beverly Campbell are some of those who help out.

Leisure Time Book Club 2021 Annual Report

Our Covenant “Leisure” Time Book Club adapted to our strange new world. Before March of 2020, we read the same book to discuss at our monthly meeting. Since April 2020 we have our book club has zoomed every Thursday for 40 minutes. Our format changed to “show and tell,” where one would tell us about the book they had found on their book shelf and then we ask questions about the book! In October 2021, we finally had our first “In-Person” Book Club where we all read the same book. We picked up with the book that we were going to read *BC* (Before Coronavirus), *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah (2016). It was a great book for discussion and so gratifying to be together again. Our monthly book club meetings are now held in Covenant’s Library on the fourth Thursday of the month at 11AM. There is a zoom link available for those who would like to join in by zoom.

The weekly 2PM “Show and Tell Us About Your Book” ZOOM continues every Thursday (except the 4th Thursday) for 40 minutes. The books discussed are what each person is reading that day, wherever they are. Many of our book club members moved out of town or are unable to get to an in-person meeting and our Zoom Book Club connects us through our love of books. We will keep it going if there are people in the zoom boxes!

Just one more chapter... Beverly Campbell

2021 Annual Report for Presbyterian Women of Covenant (PWC)

Presbyterian Women of Covenant entered the New Year of 2021 lamenting. Our 2020-2021 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* (by P. Lynn Miller) was a challenge. We especially want to thank Pastor Jeff DeYoe for setting up and zooming with our Study Leaders to guide us through the Lessons on Lament. We learned about prayers of lament, we persevered as our church campus closed again and we moved our outdoor courtyard Circle Meetings back into Zoom meetings for January and February 2021.

PW of Covenant were represented on February 6, 2021, at Peace River Presbytery's Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women by Beverly Campbell via Zoom.

As our church pulled people together safely with worship service in the Parking Lot (also livestreamed), we were thankful to celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday on March 7, 2021, at our "Drive-In" Worship Service! Our PWC led the worship service as scripture leaders and as parking attendants. Gifts of Women Sunday turned out to be our only Fundraiser for the year. Over \$2,200 was raised for PWC's selected mission, the Peggy Salvesen Gift of Hope (for the Benson Fund of SWFL Foster Care Advisory Services). We thank our congregation for their generous support of this local mission.

In April 2021, our Circle Meetings returned to the covered courtyard (and included zoom). There were some glitches and we lamented. We learned that that the triennial National PW Gathering in St. Louis scheduled for August was cancelled for in person but would be live streamed. In May 2021, our Circles finished up the Lessons on Lament and we passed around the Birthday Offering envelopes. "Normally," we have a gathering with the congregation joining our Annual Meeting at a luncheon. But it was just our Coordinating Team meeting on Zoom. We thanked Mary Ellen Frost for her years of leadership within our PW of Covenant (and with Peace River Presbytery) as she announced her "retirement," but we know that she will still be active in our activities as needed. We welcomed Mary Armes, who will co-lead Naomi Circle with Jane Kaserman. We voted to donate our leftover "lament" study books to Christian Ed to consider for a future Sunday School. In June 2021, we planned a calendar for 2021-2022 that we hoped would happen and we ordered the 2021-2022 PW/*Horizons* Bible study books, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus," by Meryl Blair. In August 2021, many of our PWC's were able to attend the livestreamed National PW Meeting, which we found to be very uplifting. Along with PW from all over the country and the world we prayed for each other.

Our Circles were able to meet in person in a classroom (masked and socially distanced) for September with our new bible study. We invite those who would like to participate by Zoom to join the Deborah Circle meetings (2nd Tuesdays at 10AM). This "hybrid" Circle had a few tech issues but is improving each month to include people who are unable to attend in person.

The Peace River Presbytery PW's Fall meeting on October 16, 2021, was held close by at Cypress Lake Presbyterian. Several PWC were able to attend and participate in fellowship with PW from other SW Florida PC(USA) churches. On October 17, 2021, we were grateful to hold our Covenant Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering in the Sanctuary. Our own fabric Artist Jef Farlow presented "Not Your Grandmother's Quilt!" in the Sanctuary while our Chef Sue Coffman prepared box lunches to take home or to enjoy afterwards at tables in the covered courtyard. In November, our Circles prayed for our Bible Study leader Pastor Jeff DeYoe as he went on leave and turned over the Bible Study leadership to Rev. Phyllis Hackett. In December, our "bridge" Pastor Jaci Smith Patman join in with the Study Leaders' meeting. We are blessed to have pastors who step up to walk with us in our studies.

Our November 2021 Craft and Bake Sale fundraiser was postponed for another year. We were able to "Deck The Halls" for 2021 with each Circle sending two people to help The Property Committee decorate the Sanctuary and Courtyard. With hope and joy, our PWC and Christian Ed were able to hold a scaled-down "Hanging of the Greens" following worship service on the first Sunday of Advent. The congregation enjoyed a simple lunch together (for the first time back

in Fellowship Hall) with activities for Advent.

Our prayers of thanks to Covenant's Pastors, Office Staff and Volunteers, to our Deacons and Elders who worked with us to keep moving forward this year. We are learning through this year's Bible Study that studying our past will help open us to God's extraordinary future.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Campbell, PWC Co-Moderator

Presbyterian Women of Covenant Presbyterian Church
 Annual Financial Report
 January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

Fund Balance January 1, 2021 \$ 4,006.37

Receipts

PW Donations	\$ 2,769.50
Least Coins	\$ 65.11
Gifts of Women	\$ 347.00
Thank Offering	\$ 127.00
Study Books	\$ 386.25
Fall Luncheon	\$ 525.00

Total Receipts \$ 4,219.86

Disbursements

Least Coins	\$ 53.00
Thank Offering	\$ 200.00
Birthday Offering	\$ 100.00
Mission Haven	\$ 100.00
Apportionment Fund	\$ 100.00
Hanging of the Greens	\$ 70.29
Miscellaneous Gifts	\$ 100.00
Immakolee Fair Housing	\$ 200.00
Cultivate Abundance	\$ 200.00
ECHO	\$ 200.00
Bnson Fund—Foster Care	\$ 2,000.00
Foster Care Advisory	\$ 1,000.00
Our Mother's Home	\$ 100.00
Fall Luncheon	\$ 746.00
Study Books and DVDs	\$ 386.25

Total Disbursements \$ 5,555.54

Fund Balance December 31, 2021

\$ 2,670.69

Jeffrey Farlow, Treasurer

Lee Interfaith for Empowerment -- L.I.F.E.

This past year, Covenant Presbyterian Church faithfully increased its involvement and investment in the Lee Interfaith for Empowerment mission. L.I.F.E. is an advocacy group made up of 14 member congregations from across Lee County. Its purpose is to hold public officials accountable for fair policies and practices.

Pastor Jeff DeYoe, who is designated co-chair of the L.I.F.E. Board for 2022, leads our congregation's efforts. Other members of our leadership team are Pat Arner, Beverly Campbell, Jef Farlow, Mary Ellen Frost, Pastor Winston Lawson, Kelly Wilson, and Patricia Zimmerman.

In 2021, Covenant helped support the mission of L.I.F.E. with a total investment of nearly \$6,000. This included the investment of \$1,500 from the church and generous investments from many of our congregants.

Our members also contributed many hours of their time by participating in numerous research meetings via Zoom. These meetings helped L.I.F.E. understand the issues better and to determine what would be the "asks" of the Lee County officials at the Nehemiah Action.

And we showed up for the Nehemiah Action on April 26!! More than 100 members of our congregation, including their family members and friends, joined the Zoom call. The total number of individuals on the Nehemiah Action call surpassed 1,000, assuring that Fort Myers Mayor Kevin Anderson and Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno would live up to their promises to support the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the NAMI Crisis Intervention Training for all officers.

In 2022, L.I.F.E. will continue to work on assuring the Affordable Housing Trust Fund is adopted for the benefit of citizens earning less than \$50,000/year. Another priority issue for 2022 is the interaction of mental health and criminal justice.

Here are the important dates for 2022: Tuesday, March 1st- LIFE Rally, Tuesday, March 15th- Nehemiah Action, Tuesday, May 10th- Celebration.

If you wish more information about Covenant's role in L.I.F.E., contact any member of the leadership team.

CHURCH OFFICERS
*** SESSION ***

Class of 2021
Rick Burnette
Beverly Grady
Sam Hamilton
Jack Ruzicho
Maddie Negip, Youth

Class of 2022
Mary Ellen Frost
Richard "Rick" Kaserman
Deborah Maurer
Richard "Rick" Ward

Class of 2023
Jeffrey "Jef" Farlow
David Negip
Barbara W. Shafer
Kent Sheets

Moderator, Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe; Barbara Heflin, Clerk of Session
Jack Shea, Treasurer

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Class of 2021
*John Anderson
Mary Watford-Arnes
Rosemary Wallace
Patricia Zimmerman

Class of 2022
Ed Christenbury
Madeleine Doran
Rebecca "Becky" Garrison
Tom Poe

Class of 2023
Phyllis Hackett
Darci Hillyer
Ellen Moore
Sandra "Sandy" Roberts

*Chairman of the Board of Deacons

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David Garrison

Class of 2022
Frank Mann

Class of 2023
Richard Shafer