

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Annual Report 2025



*You go nowhere by accident:
Wherever you go, God is sending you;
Wherever you are, God has put you there –
God has a purpose in you being there.
Christ, who dwells in you, has something he wants to do through you,
where you are.
Believe this, and go in his grace, and power, and love!*

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PASTOR REPORT 2025

Rev. Becky Schwandt

Siblings in Christ,

When I started at Covenant one year ago, it was a really interesting time. In Missouri, you tend to lose people for part of January or February. I think this is true for a couple reasons. First, because there is a lot of buildup - special activities, special studies, special services, parties, and concerts - during Advent and Christmas. People need to take a bit of a break, do the things that absolutely did not get done between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Secondly, it is generally cold! There is winter weather to contend with in addition to the overall gloomy days of winter when nothing is growing or blooming.

In Florida, almost none of that applies! There is still the holiday build up in both the church and our personal lives, but there is not much gloom and plenty of bloom. In addition, January and February are huge months here in Southwest Florida. That is when the population booms and so do the opportunities for activities, concerts/theatre, mission work, and church participation!

I would push a certain poem in Missouri to try to entice folks not to forget the very messages of hope, peace, joy, love, and incarnation we had just focused on for the 30 days previously. But, that same poem has been on my mind this January too - only for very different reasons. The poem is called *The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman.

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among others,

To make music in the heart.

This is the work Covenant does in January, February, and all throughout the year. Hands on mission work was a very important part of my search process. There are many ways to do the work of Christ, so do not take from this that if a church doesn't do hands on work, they aren't doing mission. However, for me in this time in my life, I felt like it was something that would match well with my sense of vocation. In my first year here, it has been a balm to my soul to

take a couple hours, a 1/2 day, or a full day to serve the community. To be able to announce with both pride and humility, the amount of cereal, peanut butter, rice and beans, and clothing we have been able to collect and give to our mission partners. To have an opportunity to see the face of Jesus in people I might otherwise not meet, to get familiar with local organizations that live into their mission statements, and to feel like I was a part of a larger community intent on living out their faith in very practical ways. And, there is joy in knowing the days I can't make it to one of our mission opportunities, Covenant will still be there doing exactly what Jesus calls us to do.

Worship has also been a wonderful part of our year together. I can't remember the last time I had this much fun on a weekly basis in worship, while still feeling challenged and inspired to live more fully into the Gospel. Much of that is because of how much you participate in all areas of worship. You don't just sit and stand, read or repeat by rote the words on the screen. You are actively participating no matter what I, or the Worship Committee, or the musical team, or the youth group bring for us that morning. And, that helps usher in the gift of the Holy Spirit; through laughter and tears, prayer and praise, word or song. I hope that we can continue to stretch ourselves in worship to delve deeply into our faith in the coming years.

There is one area I would like to see us improve this year and it is our participation in our Christian Education opportunities. Our Christian Ed committee works hard to offer times when smaller groups can come together in study. A time to ask questions, hear different understandings, and to help us remain curious in our faith. When we stop asking questions, believing we have all our questions answered, and are not only confident in our faith, but certain everything we believe is true, that is when we actually start losing our faith. Anne Lamott tells us that, "The opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty. Certainty is missing the point entirely."

Perhaps, we do not yet offer a study at a time or day that works for you? Perhaps, we have not had a topical study, a book study, or a bible study that appeals to you? I would encourage you to search out a member of our CE team or find me and tell us what would entice you to spend a bit of time in group study. There is no reason we cannot have two, entirely different Sunday School classes, or have Sunday School on a Tuesday. There is no reason we can't have a group that spends 15 minutes reading and discussing a prayer in Scripture and spend 30 minutes in prayer together, or a 6-week study on different ways to pray. Maybe you want to have a two-session class on one of our confessions, or a Saturday morning on what Presbyterians believe about civic responsibility. Help us offer you ways to stay curious and engaged in the lifelong learning of discipleship!

It has been a wonderful year together and I look forward to what 2026 brings for Covenant Presbyterian Church. Like Paul told the Ephesians, "I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers," (1:15-16).

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ,

Pastor Becky

Pastor Becky Schwandt





Pastor Becky Schwandt

MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST, Dr. Warren Apple



The Chancel Choir has served as the principal choir for our Sunday morning services. We are especially happy to welcome five new members to the Chancel Choir this year.

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

The Jubilate Ringers consist of nine handbell ringers, including one new member who has recently joined our ensemble.

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

Our 2025 Concert Series featured Covenant musicians in our annual Spring and Christmas Concert. The concert series also included Juan Pablo Oliva and Friends on March 15 and November 9, the Historical High Brass Ensemble on January 3, the Fred Moyer Jazz Trio on January 17, cellist Gabriel Martins on January 31, the Atralis Trio on February 14, and organist Dr. Warren Apple on November 7.

We continue to be grateful to our choir members, bell ringers and instrumentalists who have volunteered to participate in our worship services and contribute greatly to their effectiveness.



Youth Group, Year 2025 report

This year has been a wonderful journey for our Youth Group, filled with spiritual growth, friendship, lots of laughter, and service. None of this would have been possible without our wonderful congregation, that full of love and faith supports us. A huge THANK YOU to the parents who trust us and accompany us; we are deeply grateful to each and every one of you.

This report is a summary of the story God has been writing through our ministry this year. In it, you will find the activities we shared, the achievements we celebrated, the challenges that helped us grow, and the dreams and goals that motivate us for the coming year. Our youth are not just participants in a program; they are family, and it is an honor and a responsibility that we embrace with joy

Group Objectives

1. Promote the spiritual and personal development of youth.
2. Promote friendship and unity among youth.
3. Serve the community as an expression of the Christian faith.
4. Provide spaces for biblical teaching and the strengthening of values.

Activities:

Weekly meetings, Sundays from 5:00 pm to 7:00 p.m.

Content: Bible studies, group dynamics, prayer and times of praise.

Average Attendance: 8 youth per session.

Special Events:

January 3rd: Lock in

January 18th all church talent show (raising funds to support the costs of the church's van)

January 20th trip to Snowcat Ridge

January 25th: youth helped with the PW annual sale

March 9th and 16th: Montreat fund raisers (envelopes in the courtyard)

March 23rd Youth Sunday

March 30th Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show (Montreat Fund Raiser)

May 17th Work day at church

May 26: Senior Sunday with Arianna, and Victor Arias, Marylee Grace Mann.

June 22nd Youth Sunday.

June 23-27 VBS (youth involved as crew leaders and games))

July 26th -August 2nd Montreat Youth Conference (free afternoon work at a community garden)

August 31 Youth Sunday (Montreat Sunday)

October (whole month) new members class.

November 2nd: 4 youth joined covenant as new members one of them was baptized

New members: Hilda, Carissa, Eann (baptized) and Sebastian.

Nov 30th: Youth Sunday

Dec 12th: caroling at Springwood court, assisted living facility (organized by Maria Baruth)

Dec 14th: two youth joined covenant as new members: Tripp Collins and Kay Hayward (Kay was baptized)

Dec 14th Recreation activity: Visit to FastTrack in Fort Myers

Near future activity:

Dec 28: Lock in

Achievements of the Year

1. This year our attendance was well maintained. With one youth joining our group by the end of the year and some who came sporadically.
2. Church Integration: through the year our youth have been actively involved in service almost every Sunday, in worship band, ushering, reading scriptures, they also participate serving during fellowship events. Six youth joined Covenant as new members.
3. Spiritual Formation: Through our weekly meetings and lessons, our youth show a steady faith development and formation in Christian life.
4. The goals set for this year were met.

Challenges

Consistent participation: some of our regular young members now work on Sundays, which affects their ability to attend, although they try to participate in other activities.

Goals for next year:

Next year, we want to keep the good energy going! We'll continue our fundraisers to keep the church van rolling and to make sure our Montreat youth conference trip stays alive and thriving. These experiences are a big deal, and we want every student to be able to say "yes" to them.

We'll also keep showing up every week—laughing, learning, growing in faith, and reminding our youth that church is a safe, welcoming place they can always call home. As we lovingly, proudly, and confidently send our seniors off to their next chapter, we're also excited to grow our crew and welcome new faces into our youth family.

Respectfully submitted

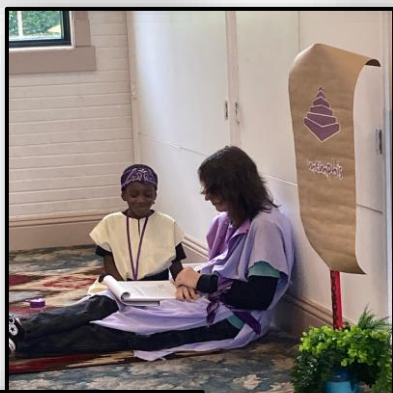
Co- Youth Directors

Barbara Sheets

Juan P Oliva



Co-Youth Directors





Co-Youth Directors

SESSION

Deborah Maurer, Clerk of Session

As we began 2025, we welcomed Rev. Becky Schwandt into our church family as our new Pastor. Our prayers were answered after almost 3 years as Pastor Becky heard God's call and, we elected and approved her Terms of Call at the Called Congregational Meeting on November 24, 2024. She has provided exciting leadership to all and thoughtful and new experiences to worship. Thank you, Pastor Becky.

Our Elders have been faithful in carrying out their duties throughout 2025. The Session and Committees have met monthly and continued with their committee responsibilities. The 2025 Session Committees and the chairpersons were:

Christian Education – Anna Siemen	Missions – Chris Larson
Fellowship – Deacons Connie Burkert, Jane Kaserman, Connie Willhite	Property – Rosemary Wallace
Finance – Mary Lee Mann	Stewardship – Mary Lee Mann
Human Resources – Madeleine Doran	Worship - Deborah Maurer
Membership/Evangelism – John Anderson	

In addition to the above committees, we also had 4 Non-Standing Committees:

Scholarships - Richard Shafer
 Nominating – Richard Shafer
 Steeple/Dolphin Window Committee - Deborah Maurer

The Session also included Moderator of Session, Rev. Becky Schwandt and Elders not included above – Patricia (Pat) Arner, Mary Watford Armes, Verona Lawson.

Covenant was well represented on several Peace River Presbytery committees: Committee on Ministry – Rev. Winston Lawson, and Elder Chris Larson; Finance - Rev. Courtney Ducharme; DeAnne Sawyer – Presbyterian Homes and Housing Foundation of Florida. We thank these individuals for their leadership and 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), Misión Peniel, Cultivate Abundance and Covenant's *Together We Grow* garden, Cuba Partnership, Madagascar, Nicaragua, and The Cooperative/Soup Kitchen.

We celebrated Vacation Bible School the week of June 23rd with children and volunteers experiencing *Egypt – Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace*. It was a fun time for both the children and the volunteers who were assisting. Thanks for the leadership of the Christian Education committee along with church volunteers including youth and the young at heart.

The Presbyterian Women's three circles provided a monthly Bible study for members and friends by in-person meetings. A new Circle was added this year – Rahab meets on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and is open to all women interested in fellowship and Bible study. The Naomi and Deborah circles meet during the week. The Gifts of Women was celebrated on March 16th. The Annual Bake and Craft Sale was held the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving and was a great success.

Our outstanding paid staff coordinated and provided support throughout 2025 and deserve an overwhelming word of thanks:

Dr. Warren Apple, Director of Music/Organist, continues to provide us with beautiful music each Sunday during worship with a wonderful Chancel Choir, Concert Choir, the Jubilate Handbell Ringers, and other gifted musicians of our congregation. Warren also oversees an outstanding Concert Series which is now celebrating its 45th year.

We are fortunate to have guitarist, Juan Pablo Oliva, as our Worship Band Director and Co-Director of our Youth Program. He provides the youth an opportunity to learn and enjoy good music as well as participating in the worship services. This year as part of the Concert Series, *Juan Pablo and Friends* offered two informal upbeat concerts in the courtyard which was enjoyed by all who attended, one in the Spring, one in the Fall. Juan Pablo also joined Dr. Apple in concert on November 7, 2025 for the opening of the 45th Anniversary of the Concert Series.

Barbara Sheets and Juan Pablo Oliva serve as Co-Directors of Youth. The youth meet on Sunday evenings and have special events planned also. These included a trip to Snowcap, Montreat, and assisting with VBS. Youth Sunday is celebrated on months with 5 Sundays.

Gary Brothers, Facilities Manager, being underwritten by several donors continues with overseeing daily facilities management, computer systems, AV equipment, phone systems, etc. It was also a busy year with property projects around our facilities. Gary, THANK YOU for all you do!

Deanna Gordon, Office Administrator oversees the office and the volunteers. Deanna publishes the Covenant Matters newsletter including printing and mailing (if requested). The newsletter is published 10 times a year. The *Covenant Matters* is also posted on Covenant's website or available in the church office and Welcome Center. Deanna's other responsibilities include updating the website, producing the worship bulletin each week, memorial service bulletins, worship slides for announcements and the service, she maintains ACS membership files, flower donations, details of prayer concerns, organizing the front desk volunteers and the church calendars, etc. Our thanks to Deanna for her outstanding work.

Barbara Thrasher, along with Jayson Ford, her grandson, continue as part-time custodians. They are responsible for the cleaning of the facilities on a weekly basis. Duties also include set up of rooms for different meetings and functions.

Our Audio/Visual team, who work in the Sound Booth each Sunday, are Jayson Ford, Edgardo Alvarado and Sebastian Oliva joined the team this year. In addition to these fine individuals, Scott Maurer continues, on a volunteer basis, providing sound for worship services, memorials and concerts.

Mary Callaway, Financial/Membership Secretary, handles the financial input of the ACS program. She oversees the counting of all monies and banking deposits. Mary is an unpaid staff volunteer. Thank you, Mary for your time and talent.

Thank you to John Anderson who is serving as Assistant Treasurer. He is performing the weekly bookkeeping duties of the finances including check writing for both payroll and expenditures. Please say THANK YOU to John as he volunteers as Assistant Treasurer.

Other valuable volunteers in the office are the Front Desk Volunteers: Marlene Dietzel, Jane Kaserman, Connie Willhite, Betty Whitaker, Madeline Bailey, and Ginny Shea. They provide a warm welcome to those coming to the church office and by answering the phone calls. They serve on a rotating basis and do an outstanding job. We are truly grateful for each of them. Anna Siemen also volunteers each week to update the website.

Serving as our church librarian, Beverly Campbell along with her many volunteers, provide Covenant with a wonderful Library that includes the newest of books for your reading enjoyment, puzzles and fellowship. The library is open on Wednesday and Sunday mornings. Please contact Beverly if you would like to volunteer in the library. Thank you!

Each of these volunteers deserve a special “thank you” 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 limited budget of paid staff. If there is an area where you would like to volunteer, please call or email Dgordon@covpcfm.com. WE CAN USE YOU!

Covenant welcomed into church membership this year:

Howard Clifton Collins, III (Tripp)	Gail Leigh Freund	Kay Riley Hayward
Sophie Joy Lemons	Eann Conley Myers	Elaine Pierce
Carissa Lee Sprung	Hilda Oliva Tan	Sebastian Oliva Tan

The Lord also called the following Saints home to the Church Eternal in 2025:

David Anderson	Donald Aaron Berglund	Ann Louise Cushman
Kris Hayward	Re. Dr. Taylor McFarland Hill	Gardner (Doc) White
	Meredith (Merrie) Kilner White	

As we turn away from 2025 and move into 2026, we know that we have a faithful God and He will continue to bless Covenant and provide hope for the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Maurer, Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons

Annual Report for 2025

2025 Officers: Tamera Bilicic, Moderator; Connie Burkert, Interim Moderator; Karen Viele, Secretary; Hank Sawyer, Treasurer

In 2025, the Board of Deacons focused on several goals:

1. Further defining the role of deacons in the life of our church.
2. Creating a greater understanding among church members of who the deacons are and what members may expect from their deacons.
3. Further developing and improving our implementation of the Flock/Shepherd system introduced in 2014.
4. Strengthening the connection between deacons and the members of the flocks.
5. Strengthening the spirit of team work and cooperation among those currently serving as deacons.

In accordance with goals, the Board of Deacons have accomplished the following:

1. Beth Richter, Karen Viele and Connie Burkert teamed up over the summer to write a New Deacon Handbook, which was a big accomplishment. The handbook enumerates and explains all of the duties of active deacons.
2. Deacon Sunday was on October 19, 2025. The goals of Deacon Sunday are to give every member the opportunity to better understand the flock system and be able to visually relate to their shepherd.

As always, the deacons have continued to send birthday cards and other notes of encouragement. They continue to deliver flowers each week to members whom they wish to encourage. They also have made hospital visits and hospice visits. Deacons continue to assist grieving families at memorial services and assist members in need. They have given help to a number of needy individuals and families through the Deacons' Benevolence Fund.

The deacons' greatest accomplishment in 2025 is their growing cohesiveness and team work. We are privileged to give our time and gifts to Covenant Presbyterian Church in all of the ways we have been called to serve.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Burkert, Interim Moderator

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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

Youth Ministry

Sunday School and special Events

Adult Education

Family Ministry

Vacation Bible School

Confirmation

2025 began on a bright note, with our new Pastor, Reverend Becky Schwandt. A 4-week Lenten series based on the book, "Entering the Passion of Jesus-A beginner's guide to Holy Week" by Amy Jill Levine.

In 2025 our Christian Education continued the "Feasting on the Word" curriculum which affirms that the Bible is the record of the revelation of God in Christ.

Fellowship events were presented each month by a committee of the church and continue to be vital to the life of the church.

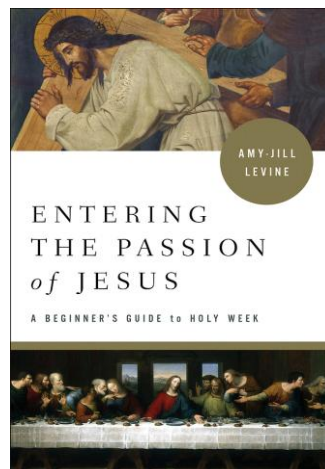
The youth did not have a Sunday Morning 'Sunday School,' per se. The lessons were provided during youth group in the evening. Currently we have only two children in Sunday school. They participate in the Praise Band, so they leave early. Yacelis was given the curriculum to use with them during their home schooling each week.

As was mentioned last year, the youth group went to session to ask to keep the van. They did honor the agreement made with session to raise money to offset costs. They helped PW with the treasure sale, sold hot chocolate, and earned a little over \$60. The Presbyterian Women donated a total of \$500 to the youth.

In May, Covenant celebrated the graduation of two high school seniors, Ariana and Victor Arias, with cake in the courtyard.

The youth participated in a 'spring cleaning' event at the church where they helped change light bulbs, clean nursery equipment, move the Christmas storage to D-2, and begin to get the storage room in Heflin Hall refurbished.

During the summer, kids and adults alike were invited to visit Egypt for our exciting VBS curriculum. Our visitors were able to join in the activities in the marketplace including brickmaking, sarcophagus decorating, basketweaving, jewelry making and more. During the week 'visitors' learned how Joseph ended up as a slave in Egypt. They saw him imprisoned, then showed how God gave Pharaoh dreams to show what the future held for Egypt. Joseph then interpreted the dreams that saved Egypt. As always, VBS wouldn't have been possible without the help of the many dedicated volunteers.

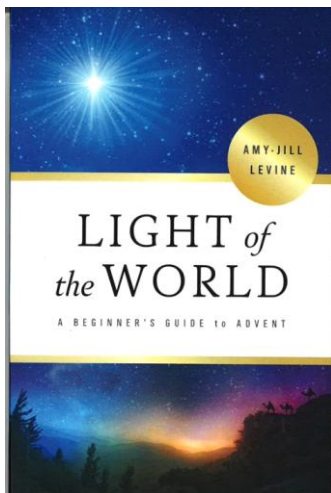


During the summer, our co-directors of the youth, along with Pastor Becky, bravely drove our youth to Montreat. Ice cream, fun, and learning all played a part in the week they spent in North Carolina. They returned home after a week of fellowship and learning about the 'Light of God.' When they returned, they led Sunday Worship with many of the ideas they learned while at Montreat.



It was decided to have a 'New

Member/Confirmation' group for interested youth. It was held during youth group in the month of October. On November 4, the new members were recognized in the church service, which was followed by our first immersion Baptism. In December the other two youth, who were unable to attend the Nov. 4th church service, were recognized.



The season of Advent was kicked off by the 'Hanging of the Greens' Sunday December first. The youth participated in the liturgy, adult' time, ushering, and the presentation of the Greens. Pastor Becky began the 4-week Advent study, "The Light of the World-A beginners guide to Advent," by Amy-Jill Levine.

Thanks go to Connie Burkert, Beverly Grady, Juan Pablo Oliva, Barb Sheets, and Yacelis Dotres, for serving on the 2025 Christian Education Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna L Siemen

Covenant Presbyterian Church Fellowship Committee 2025 Annual Report

Fellowship is a group of volunteers who help provide social opportunities for fellowship. We support other committees in their events, we create new events and we provide Memorial Receptions. In addition to the group itself, there are also many people who assist with food donations and serving. We have created what we call a “helpers list”. The people on this list help out when they can and support Fellowship. The helpers have become a vital component of Fellowship.

We have great cooperation among our members and we have cohesively handled a wide variety of projects. These include the following:

1. Hosted a number of Memorial Receptions.
2. Hosted the Installation of Pastor Becky.
3. Assisted in Human Resources Intergenerational Church Event.
4. Assisted with the Spring Covenant Concert Reception.
5. Participated in our church work day.
6. Assisted in Graduation Sunday.
7. Hosted World Communion Sunday with Ministerio Tierra de Avivamiento Ministries.
8. Assisted in Deacon Sunday.

This year we have once again enjoyed good relations with staff, other committees and groups. We have all worked together especially with the Concert Committee and the Ushers. Under the Board of Deacons, along with Jane Kaserman and Connie Willhite, it has been my privilege to tri-chair Fellowship this year.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Burkert,

Tri-chair with Jane Kaserman and Connie Willhite



Finance Committee Annual Report 2025

2025 should be remembered as a year when Covenant Presbyterian Church began to live within its means again and only spent the current year's income for the current year's expenses and began to build up some small reserves. This has been made possible by the diligence of both staff and committees monitoring expenses and staying not only within, but in many cases under the amounts budgeted to be spent.

But equally as important this fiscal turnaround has been made possible by the continued generosity of and loyal financial support of Covenant's members and friends.

Last year your Finance Committee pledged to you that we would continue to monitor our income and expenses and follow the best practices to maximize our financial situation and we have been diligent in keeping that promise.

You will see on the following page Annual Budget comparisons for 2025 and 2026 and importantly the actual Operating Revenue and Expenses for the year 2025 showing a positive cash flow at the end of the year.

We still have capital expense needs, some of which we have restricted funds to cover. At this time we are not considering applying to the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program for funds, but this might be reconsidered during the year as we strive to work with the Property Committee to maintain our aging campus. The Committee also wants to extend our appreciation to our Facilities Coordinator Gary Brothers as he completes his tenure with us this spring for his oversight this year of many of these capital projects and the funds contributed for them.

Special thanks should be extended to Committee Members Trustees Bev Beardsley, Wilson Wheeler, Victor Arias and Elder Richard Shafer, Finance Secretary Mary Callaway, Property Chair Rosemary Wallace and Pastor Becky for their dedicated service on this committee.

Mary Lee Mann, Chair
2025

2025 ANNUAL REPORT				
	Accounts	2025 Annual	2025 Actual	2026 Annual
		Budget	12/31/2025	Budget
REVENUES				
	OFFERINGS	\$522,746.00	\$384,518.52	\$399,474.00
	DESIGNATED OFFERINGS	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
	OTHER REVENUE	\$33,800.00	\$29,304.48	\$26,700.00
	Total REVENUES	<u>\$556,546.00</u>	<u>\$516,964.86</u>	<u>\$546,455.00</u>
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES				
	ADMINISTRATIVE	\$27,300.00	\$26,375.90	\$28,949.00
	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$6,020.00	\$3,054.14	\$6,020.00
	EVANGELISM/MEMBERSHIP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00
	FELLOWSHIP	\$1,750.00	\$1,236.06	\$2,750.00
	MUSIC	\$4,050.00	\$110.00	\$4,050.00
PERSONNEL				
	MISCELLANEOUS	\$500.00	\$1,399.53	\$500.00
	PROGRAM STAFF	\$97,680.00	\$85,792.65	\$97,680.00
	SUPPORT STAFF	\$70,224.00	\$60,250.04	\$78,024.00
	PASTOR			
	201-4201- RELOCATION EXPENSE	\$4,500.00	\$3,014.15	DELETE
	201-4205- AUTO ALLOWANCE	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
	201-4206- SENIOR PASTOR PROF EXPENSE	\$3,000.00	\$1,739.58	\$3,500.00
	201-4220- SENIOR PASTOR HOUSING	\$45,000.00	\$38,196.37	\$46,800.00
	201-4222- SENIOR PASTOR CONTINUING ED	\$2,500.00	\$1,714.67	\$3,000.00
	201-4225- SENIOR PASTOR B.O.P.	\$24,700.00	\$21,164.82	\$27,255.00
	201-4260- SENIOR PASTOR SALARY/SEC	\$57,268.00	\$48,618.95	\$59,559.00
	201-4292 - SENIOR PASTOR MED EXP	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
	201-4297- SENIOR PASTOR BOOK ALLOWANCE	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	291-7206 - PULPIT SUPPLY	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,400.00</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
	Total PASTOR/PULPIT SUPPLY	<u>\$143,968.00</u>	<u>\$121,152.32</u>	<u>\$146,114.00</u>
	Total PERSONNEL	\$312,372.00	\$268,594.54	\$311,863.00
PROPERTY				
	STEWARDSHIP	\$1,500.00	\$789.36	\$1,500.00
	WORSHIP	\$6,625.00	\$5,323.29	\$7,200.00
	CHURCH OFFICER AND COMMITTEE EXPENSES	\$500.00	\$198.71	\$1,500.00
	Total OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	\$493,814.00	\$449,134.17	\$509,690.00
	MISSIONS	\$27,865.00	\$25,166.61	\$29,745.00
	Total EXPENSES	<u>\$521,679.00</u>	<u>\$474,300.78</u>	<u>\$546,455.00</u>
	Total REVENUES	<u>\$556,546.00</u>	<u>\$516,964.86</u>	<u>\$546,455.00</u>
	NET TOTAL	\$34,867.00	\$42,664.08	\$0.00

HR Committee 2025 Annual Report

Members: John Anderson, Joan Cady, Tom Poe, Madeleine Doran, Chair

The HR Committee meets as needed. This year we accomplished the following:

- Honored staff and volunteers with a personalized cake and banner with the words, *With thanks for our Amazing Staff and Volunteers* at the April 13 covered dish luncheon.



- Developed job descriptions for Vacation Bible School Director, Media Technician and Media Coordinator.
- Recommended the hiring of Sebastian Oliva-Tan as Media Technician
- Recommended That Jayson Ford be appointed Media Coordinator for \$50 additional per month.
- Presented a gift to Pastor Becky for Pastor Appreciation Day, October 13. The gift was a small pink refrigerator that holds a six-pack of coke, which she drinks throughout the day.
- Recommended that we follow Presbytery guidelines and amend our Employee Handbook to provide 5 days' Sick Pay per year for our Part-Time staff who work more than 20 hours per week. The Sick Pay will be paid in proportion to the average hours worked per day. The Sick Pay will be available to the employee as of their start date.

- Recommended that we follow Presbytery guidelines and amend our Employee Handbook to provide 5 days' Vacation Pay per year for our Part-Time staff who work more than 20 hours per week. The Vacation Pay will be paid in proportion to the average hours worked per day. The Vacation Pay will be available to the employee after completion of 1 year of continuous employment.
- Recommended that we have custodial coverage Sunday through Friday. The Pastor will work with the two part-time custodians to ensure coverage.

HR plans to recommend updates to the Policy handbook in 2026.

Membership, Evangelism, and Communications 2025 Annual Report

This has been a very busy and productive year for our committee. It was only possible because of the tireless and dedicated work of the members of this committee. I want to extend my very special thanks to Cynthia Briand, Deanna Gordon, Deborah Maurer, Dale Rambo, and Sandra Roberts. Not only did we accomplish a great deal together, we had a blast doing it.

Some of the highlights of this year are:

- Moving the Welcome Center to the area in front of the elevators.
- Increasing the size of the Welcome Center and repainting it in “Covenant Colors.”
- Moving the Coffee Station to be contiguous to the Welcome Center
- Upping our “Coffee Game” with specialty coffees, creamers, and adding treats.
- Designating 3 “Visitor Parking” spots on the front row of the parking lot, as well as directional signs to those spots.
- Rehabilitated the bulletin board as you enter the courtyard from the parking lot.
- Added verbiage to our weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter that we are a Welcoming, Inclusive, and Affirming Congregation.
- Added a beautiful Welcoming message to our website, so that those searching for a Church to visit or a Church home will know that we are a Welcoming, Inclusive, and Affirming congregation.
- Applied to “gaychurch.org” to be listed on their search engine as a Church in our area where anyone in the LGBTQ community who may be looking for a Church where they feel safe and accepted will know that Covenant is a place for them.
- Planning a Fat Tuesday celebration on February 17, 2026, with a pancake dinner and entertainment.
- Currently working on retooling our Visitors “Purple Bags” .
- After the Holidays are over, we will be installing COVENANT and PCUSA Banners as you enter the courtyard.
- Planning off-campus evangelism events for 2026.
- Working to reinvigorate Wednesday Morning Live.

If you want a sample of the results of our hard work, just stop by the Welcome Center either before or after Church and watch (and be part of!) the energy, enthusiasm, and camaraderie taking place among our members, friends, AND guests! It really does let everyone know that we are a Church FAMILY!

Respectfully Submitted,

John Anderson

MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT 2025

What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? [17](#) So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. James 2: 14-17

Many thanks to the wonderful, and hard-working, members of the Missions Committee in 2025: Margaret England, Linda Nelson, Dorothy Mae Wert, Madeleine Doran, Anna Lee Fowler, Patricia Zimmerman, Verona Lawson, Juan Pablo Oliva, DeAnne Sawyer, Barb Chapin, and Pat Arner. And of course, we could do none of our work without the support of our generous and mission-minded congregation. Thank you. We were also pleased to have Pastor Becky join us for many of our meetings and events this year! The Missions Committee had a highly active year as we tried to share our faith by leading our church's mission activities, educating the congregation, and supporting our missionaries. We collaborated with community partners and local and international groups. Here is a summary of our main activities.

Cuba Partnership. We continued to strengthen our relationship with El Fuerte Church in Cardenas. We were in frequent communication with the pastor and other members, hearing about their work, and sharing encouraging messages and photos. When the power plants in Cuba began to fail in October of 2024, we agreed that we would try to help. The committee voted to purchase a generator and filters for the gasoline and in December, these items were shipped to El Fuerte in Cuba. They arrived in February. We then researched a second purchase of a solar generator, because gasoline is scarce in Cuba, and sent it in February of this year. El Fuerte reports that the solar generator is very quiet and useful for Sunday services and events.

We were also able to send cash donations in the amount of \$1600 with the team from a fellow Presbyterian Church in New Orleans and with our own Juan Pablo when his family visited Cardenas in the Summer. We also took up a fabric and clothing drive to help with severe shortages of both in Cuba- and all items were shipped to and received by the church.

When we became aware in October of serious outbreaks of dengue, chikangunya, oropouche, and zika viruses in Cardenas we spoke with the Pastor at El Fuerte about how we could be helpful. She agreed that mosquito netting would be very useful as all these diseases are spread by mosquitoes. We are in the process of purchasing protective nets and shipping them to Cuba.

Mision Peniel. We have a strong bond with this mission to farmworkers located in Immokalee. On Fridays Mision Peniel packs and distributes non-perishable food and fresh produce to approximately 400 persons, or families, on their site. They require a steady supply of volunteers. Volunteer recruits from our congregation made over a dozen trips to Immokalee this year to help with this effort, most often on the 4th Friday of each month, our regular outreach day. We also make occasional trips on Friday afternoons if the Mission is short-handed. Our church also donated 30 backpacks and more than 10 bags of school supplies to the Back-to-School bash for children which was held in August. At this time, we are on target to donate more than 40 toys for the children's Christmas Joy event which will be held on December 19th. We also provide financial support for this ministry. Because we had only been asked to help with 40 children through Mision Peniel, we requested information on other children needing help at Christmas from the Salvation Army. Our church rose to this challenge as well and

all 25 of those children will also be receiving a gift.

Together We Grow. Our Covenant Garden was incredibly productive in 2025. From January through November of this year, the Covenant Garden has produced almost 3850 lbs. (over 4,000 by end of year) of food amounting to approximately 9363 servings, and valued conservatively at \$5548, for distribution at Mision Peniel. Produce harvested included avocados, bananas, cassava, chaya, coconuts, eggplants, field peas, mangos, papayas, peppers, sapodilla, Seminole pumpkins, star fruit, nopales, coconuts, broccoli, cauliflower and sweet potatoes.

LIFE. In 2025 the Lee Interfaith for Empowerment was rebuilding and strengthening to be able to continue their fight for social justice in Lee County. Their goal is to get more people involved, because “People-power” is the way to get results. LIFE continues its mission to get the leaders of Lee County to “do the right thing” particularly for the poor and underserved members of our community. At this time LIFE is focusing on Affordable Housing issues and on growing the number of congregations committed to this work. Pastor Becky Schwandt agreed to be our clergy representative for LIFE this year.

Inasmuch. Held on March 1st, this ecumenical event was a big success. Our church volunteers, working with other local congregations, successfully filled 275 “Tote Bags of Hope” for Lee County Foster Children. Each bag was filled with donated items including new outfits, pajamas, snuggle blanket, plush “lovey” toy, books, underwear, socks, and toiletries. We also collected quarters to help other Inasmuch volunteers cover the cost for laundromats in low-income neighborhoods, helping families with this expense.

The Community Cooperative/Pine Manor. Our church has agreed to provide the Cooperative with volunteers to help with a mobile food pantry which is held once a month, on the third Tuesday, in the very underserved Pine Manor neighborhood. We help set up the pantry, assist guests with shopping for groceries and get them loaded up to go. We visited Pine Manor eleven times this year and provided hundreds of volunteer hours of service to over 760 families. Our church also provides financial support to the Cooperative. In the summer, when food supplies got low at the Cooperative, they requested our help with a “Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive.” Thanks to our generous congregation, we were able to collect 414 pounds of these items! We also donated breakfast cereal.

Alternative Christmas. This event was held on December 14th in the church Courtyard. It allowed members to make donations to missions supported by our church in lieu of purchasing gifts for friends and family. Eight different missions had tables to educate and explain the work being done. As of this writing, the event has raised over \$3,000 for mission work, with more to be added in the days ahead.

Global Missions. DeAnne Sawyer communicated regularly with our missionaries, offering friendship, prayer and support to Dan and Elizabeth Turk in Madagascar and Martina Wilson in Nicaragua. The Turks are working to provide edible fruit trees throughout the country and to improve public health. Martina Wilson ministers house to house with women’s groups. Financial support for this work is also provided by Covenant. When the PCUSA notified the Turks earlier this year that they would no longer be able to support them financially our committee was able to adjust our budget and send the Turks \$1000 in financial support. (We had previously sent them \$600 annually).

With Respect, Christine Larson, December 15, 2025

Missions



Nominating Committee Annual Report 2025

Covenant Presbyterian Church's Session's Nominating Committee for Elders, Deacons, and a Trustee is pleased to present the Annual Report for the year. The committee, which includes dedicated members Pat Arner, Connie Willhite, Rick Kaserman, Sandy Chapman, Beverly Grady, and Senior Pastor Becky Schwandt as an ex officio member, has successfully nominated several members to serve in various roles that are vital to our church community. For the Class of 2028, Chris Larson, Dave Nelson, and David Viele have graciously accepted nominations to serve as Elders for a three-year term, bringing their unique perspectives and experiences to the leadership team. Additionally, Beverly Grady will fill the term of John Anderson for the Class of 2027, ensuring continuity and stability in our governance, while Carissa Sprung has accepted the role of young adult elder, which is particularly important for engaging our younger congregation members.

In the Class of 2028 for Deacons, Sally Kaskocsak, Juan Pablo Olivia, Angelette Arias, and Yacelis Dotres have accepted their nominations with enthusiasm, ready to take on the responsibilities that come with this important service role. DeAnne Sawyer will also serve in the Class of 2027, contributing her skills and compassion to our outreach efforts. This expansion increases the number of Deacons at Covenant Presbyterian Church from nine to twelve, as allowed by our bylaws, reflecting our commitment to serving our community more effectively. Lastly, Pete Burkert has accepted the nomination to serve as Trustee for the Class of 2028, bringing his legal and financial expertise and dedication to the stewardship of our church resources. We are grateful for the willingness of these individuals to step into leadership roles and look forward to their contributions in the coming year, as they help guide our church in fulfilling its mission and vision. Their commitment to service and faith will undoubtedly strengthen our community and enhance our collective worship experience.

Respectfully submitted to the glory of our Lord,

Richard Shafer, Chairperson, Nominating Committee

PROPERTY COMMITTEE COMPLETED PROJECTS – 2025

NURSERY ROOM RENOVATIONS AND CARPET REPLACEMENT

FLAT ROOF REPLACEMENT BETWEEN THE CHOIR ROOM AND THE OFFICE WITH
FIVE LAYERS OF UNDERLAYMENT INCLUDING: TOP LAYER OF BASE AND
THREE ADDITIONAL LAYERS OF BASE AND CAP SHEET
UNDERNEATH THE WOOD

RESEALED ALL SANCTUARY AND CHAPEL FACETED GLASS

COMPLETED ALL THE FLASHING REPAIR OF UPPER WINDOWS
IN THE F BUILDING

REPLACED THE AIR CONDITIONER UNITS FOR THE MAIN CHURCH OFFICE

COMMERCIAL GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUT

RESEALED THE SMALL SIX WINDOWS ON EACH SIDE OF THE ELEVATOR

BIDS RECEIVED TO REPAIR THE SMALL ROOM OFF HEFLIN HALL

TRIMMING OF TREES ON THE PROPERTY

REPLACED THE DRAIN ON THE WALKWAY TO HEFLIN HALL

GARDENS PLANTED WITH FLOWERS

FOUNTAIN GARDEN PLANTED WITH FLOWERS

FRONT SIGN GARDEN PLANTED WITH FLOWERS

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS

ALL AIR CONDITIONERS CHECKED

TRIMMED TREES IN COURTYARD

PLACED SMALL STONES AROUND TREES IN THE COURTYARD

DECORATING CHURCH AND ENTRANCE FOR CHRISTMAS

PLACING NATIVITY SCENE ON LAWN IN FRONT OF CHURCH

REPAIRED CHURCH BENCHES

TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES FOR FACILITIES PROJECTS \$11,839.00
TOTAL OVER AND ABOVE BUDGETED PROPERTY FACILITIES PROJECTS
\$101,835.00

THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, ROSEMARY WALLACE, CHAIR

Scholarship Committee Annual Report 2025

The annual report for the Covenant Presbyterian Church Session on the Scholarship Committee, which includes Pat Arner, Tamera Bilicic, Mary Watford-Arnes, and is chaired by Richard Shafer, highlights the achievements of the committee under the first-year leadership of Senior Pastor Becky Schwandt.

For the 2025 scholarship season, Marylee Grace Mann and Victor Manuel Hunter Arias have each been awarded the Robert T. Shafer, Jr. Memorial Scholarship of \$500.00, while Ariana Mercedes Hunter Arias is the recipient of the Claude and Alice Allen Memorial Scholarship, also for \$500.00. These scholarships serve as a one-time honor to glorify our Lord, Jesus Christ, and to recognize the generosity of the donors and the accomplishments of the recipients. Additionally, the scholarship committee oversees the bi-annual book scholarship award, which supports deserving college students from Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully Submitted to the Glory of our Lord,

Richard Shafer, Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Worship & Music Committee

Worship & Music Committee includes the following committee members and staff. Dr. Warren Apple, Connie Burkert, Sue Coffman, Deanna Gordon, Deborah Maurer - Chair, Ginny Shea, Dorothy Mae Wert, Connie Willhite and our Pastor, Rev. Becky Schwandt. We welcomed Pastor Becky into our midst in January 2025.

Worship is celebrated each Sunday at 10 am in the Sanctuary and led by Pastor Becky. Livestream worship is also available each Sunday. Links are sent by John Anderson by Friday 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 and Facebook. The service may be viewed at a later time through the email links, platforms or Covenant's website.

Our Sound - AV Team includes 3 paid techs and Scott Maurer remains a volunteer. Gary Brothers, Facilities Manager, oversees the Sound equipment and AV team. Jayson has assumed the weekly scheduling duties of the sound team this year. Thank you **all** for your dedication and for providing us Livestream each and every week.

In May, we recognized Beverly Beardsley for her many years of dedicated service as Head Usher. On her retirement, Connie Burkert and Sue Coffman now share the duty of organizing our Ushers and Safety team each week. We currently have 12 ushers. Connie Burkert oversees Memorial services - providing ushers for the service and assisting the family with photo displays and flowers.

Sue Coffman trains and oversees our Acolyte team. The team includes Julian Martinez and Julianna Martinez.

Ginny Shea oversees fresh flowers for the Worship Services weekly. If you would like to donate flowers in honor or memory of someone, please contact Deanna Gordon in the church office or stop by the Welcome Station on Sunday and sign up on the Flower Board. The Board of Deacons distributes flower bouquets to members/friends after the worship service that are in the hospital, recovering from surgery or illness or homebound. If you know of someone that needs a "lift" with a flower bouquet, please see the Deacon overseeing the flower distribution on Sunday morning after worship in the church office.

Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated the 1st Sunday of each month. Current Ruling Elders and Deacons participate in serving communion by intinction along with Pastor Becky. Preparation of communion is handled by Connie Willhite with assistance from Deacons Carroll Negley and Dorothy Mae Wert. Elders and Deacons also "float" and serve those unable to come forward for communion.

Dorothy Mae Wert maintains the Sanctuary - supplying the pew racks with pencils, pens, special offering envelopes, prayer cards, etc. She does this several times during the month.

Our Chancel Choir has provided outstanding music all year. Average attendance each Sunday is 20 - 25 voices. Thank you to Dr. Apple and the choir for providing us with beautiful music, adding to our worship experience. Many members of the Chancel Choir also participate in the Concert Choir which anchors both the Christmas Concert and the Spring Concert each season of the Covenant Concert Series.

The Jubilate Ringers provide music at least once a month during the Worship Service. The group currently is 8 ringers. The Ringers rehearse weekly and are directed by Dr. Warren Apple. Maria Bahruth serves as President of the handbell group. Pastor Becky has also joined our group this year.

Juan Pablo Oliva, Director of the Worship Band along with several adults and youth provide music weekly during the worship service. The group of 5-8 provides joyful, upbeat music adding to our worship experience. The Worship Band is always looking for additional voices and instruments. Please contact Juan Pablo if you interested.

Worship also provided special services throughout the year. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Pentecost Sunday, World Communion Sunday, All Saints Day, Advent season including the Blue Christmas Service and Christmas Eve Candle lighting. Pastor Becky along with the committee provided meaningful and uplifting worship services.

A highlight of our year as the Worship Committee was our churchwide luncheon to kick off the 45th Anniversary season of the Concert Series of 2025-2026. Our Thanks + Giving luncheon celebrated Worship, Music and gave thanks for our gifts from God, since November 9th was also Consecration Sunday. Many thanks!

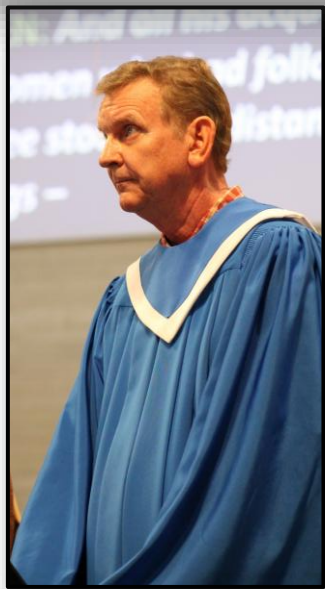
And, last but certainly not least, Worship would not happen without Pastor Becky, Deanna Gordon and volunteers that prepare the service each week, including bulletins, announcements, slide presentations for the Livestreaming, etc. Thank you for your dedication.

Concert Series, a sub-committee of Worship, is celebrating our 45th season which began in November 2025 and will present 8 concerts total through March 2026. Concert Series continues to be totally self - sustaining, supported by Friends of the Concert donations and free will offerings taken on Concert evenings.

We look forward to 2026 as Worship and Music Committee continue to provide wonderful and spiritual worship experiences that bring our church community together each and every Sunday and readies us to go out, bringing Jesus to the people in the world beyond. Thank you to all that make it happen!

Blessings and Peace,
Deborah Maurer
Chair, Worship & Music Committee

Worship and Music



Steeple/Dolphin Window Committee 2025 Non-Standing Committee of Session

Committee members include Gary Brothers, Facilities Manager, Don Cady, Marlene Dietzel, Deborah Maurer, Chair, Richard Shafer and Paul Young. Pastor Becky serves as an ex-officio member.

Pro Bono members include a Civil Engineer, Architect and Structural Engineer.

The Session added the oversight of installing the Dolphin Window to the Steeple committee this year by Session vote on May 19, 2025. The Dolphin Window was gifted to Covenant by the Administrative Commission for Chapel by the Sea in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. The window is valued at \$ 60,000.00.

The committee has worked this year to incorporate the Dolphin Window into the most appropriate setting to be enjoyed by all. The steeple has also been part of the committee's work.

Several meetings with the City of Ft. Myers have occurred and we are ready to move forward and present the committee's plan to the Session.

The committee hopes that in the near future that the steeple and cross and the Dolphin Window will be a beacon of hope to those in and around the City of Fort Myers.

God's blessings and peace,

Deborah Maurer, Chair
Steeple/Dolphin Window Committee



Covenant Presbyterian Church's Library Report 2025

Covenant's Library doors are open every Sunday before and after worship service to borrow or return books or puzzles. The library is also open on Wednesday mornings (10am – 12noon). There is also a Library mailbox in the office to accept returns/donations.

Our volunteers are always happy to assist you in finding something new to read or selecting a puzzle to enjoy. Whether you are browsing for yourself or searching for a gift, the collection includes titles for all ages and interests. If you have any questions or need recommendations, please ask—we are committed to making your library experience both welcoming and meaningful.

We accept books and puzzle donations year-round. If we do not use the donations, then we find a home for those books and puzzles. When you make room on your bookshelves, remember to donate to our Library. We pack our surplus paperbacks into donation bags for Mary Callaway (thanks!), who transports them to **Gulf Coast Hospital's** waiting rooms. This year we relocated our baby and toddler board and story books to the renovated Nursery. We especially need and appreciate children's book donations. In 2025 our library donated duplicates of children's books to **Mision Peniel** and to the 2025 **InAsMuch** Foster Kids bags.

Covenant's library subscribes to *Presbyterians Today*, *Horizons*, and *Presbyterian Outlook*. If you would like to read an article, then we can make a copy for you on our new printer. We also gratefully received a new laptop this year. The 2025-2026 Presbyterian Women's study, "*Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*" is available, along with study books from previous years. We have a magazine recycle shelf where you can donate your magazine for others to enjoy, including *People*, *Real Simple*, *National Geographic*, *American Spirit*, and *Consumer Reports*. The library also keeps a copy of current Advent and Lent study books used by Pastor Becky and past study books through the years.

In addition to categorizing books into a database, sorting books and dusting shelves, our Wednesday morning volunteers decorate the library each season. Our Sunday volunteers and our "substitutes" are extra hands to help shelve books and assist with finding books all those who stop by our library. Thank you to those who volunteered in 2025: **Mary Helen Sakellar, Jackie Chesney, Nancy Marti, and Barbara Shafer**. Our extra hands are **Mary Armes, Dorothy Campbell, Sandy Chapman and Dorothy Mae Wert**.

We are preparing for our biannual Book Sale, scheduled for the end of January 2026. This event will sell donated books to fund new library materials. Thank you for supporting our library year-round!

Beverly Campbell, Volunteer Librarian

Covenant Presbyterian “Leasure” Time Book Club Report 2025

Book Club Will Pause in 2026

Over the past few years, attendance, and participation in Covenant Presbyterian’s “Leasure” Time Book Club have steadily declined. Despite having a significant number of avid readers within our congregation, the book discussion group has not experienced growth. In light of this ongoing trend, the hard decision has been made to place the monthly book discussion group on pause.

While the Book Club will pause in 2026, our commitment to fostering a love of reading within the congregation remains strong. We will keep a list of your recommended books in the library that we will publish in our Covenant Matters newsletter. We are open to suggestions on how to revive our Book Club for those that are interested. Please feel free to stop by the library with your ideas or feedback, as we hope to find new ways to engage enthusiasm for a reading group in the future.

Beverly Campbell, Coordinator





Prayer Shawl Ministry

Faithful Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Beverly Campbell
Dorothy Campbell
Bill Guntow
Verona Lawson
Nancy Marti,
Ellen Moore
Marion Vale
Laurie Ward

Presbyterian Women's Annual Report 2025

Ellen Moore and Beverly Campbell attended the Peace River Presbyterian Women's Annual Meeting on February 8th, at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota.

The semi-annual PW Treasure Sale was held on Saturday February 25th in Heflin Hall. The public was invited. The Youth Group assisted and also provided Hot Chocolate. Leftover items were sold after service or donated to area charities.

On Saturday March 1st, PW members helped with the INASMUCH Foster Project. Members donated necessary items in advance, as well as working that day to fill 250 bags for area foster children.

The Celebration of Women's Sunday was held on March 9th. A Costco luncheon of prepared quiches was provided with PW members making salads and cookies. Donation baskets on each table helped to cover costs. The PW Birthday Offering was collected. The program was based on the 2024-2025 Bible Study, "Let Justice Roll Down", with Barb Sheets presenting "Earth Care Congregations".

PW had our joint Bible Study on May 13th, combining Naomi and Deborah Circles. Included was our annual business meeting and installation of new officers for the coming year.

The following were elected and installed:

Moderator - Dorothy McDowell

Vice Moderator - Patricia Zimmerman

Secretary - Sally Kaskocsak

Treasurer - Anna Sieman

Coordinator of Leadership and Resources - Ellen Moore

Coordinator of Together in Service - Patricia Zimmerman

Circle Leaders: Naomi - Jane Kaserman, Anna Sieman
Deborah - Ellen Moore
Rahab - Elizabeth Birkby

Following summer break, Bible Study groups started in September with our new study, "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." An Evening Circle, Rahab Circle, encouraged by Pastor Becky, was joyfully added to our organization. In person and Zoom meetings kept us connected throughout the year.

The PW Fall Gathering was held on Sunday November 2nd. Our Guest Speaker was Jessica Maudlin, Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns, National Presbyterian Offices, Louisville, KY. Jessica's topic was "Stewarding God's Creation: PCUSA and Earth Care Congregations." A "Stone Soup" luncheon was provided by eight Covenant soup chefs, incorporating soup ingredients donated by the congregation. The PW Thank Offering was collected.

Sunday November 23rd was PW's annual Craft and Bake Sale, held in the Courtyard after service. Two craft Workshops were held, November 6th and 15th, to make Yarn Trees and Christmas Cards. Members contributed baked items for Thanksgiving and Christmas crafts. The sale of items yielded over \$1,200.

Our final projects of the year included PW assisting in "Deck the Halls" on Tuesday November 25th, PW members donating for the purchase of an Outdoor Nativity, and providing Wassail and Cookies for St. Nicholas Sunday on December 7th.

We look forward to a bright New Year with Pastor Becky leading us.
Dorothy McDowell, PW Moderator



Church Officers

SESSION

CLASS OF 2026

Patricia “Pat” Arner
Madeleine Doran
Richard Shafer
Carissa Sprung
Rosemary Wallace

CLASS OF 2027

Beverly Grady
Mary Lee Mann
Anna Siemen

Rev. Becky Schwandt
Moderator

CLASS OF 2028

Christine Larson
Dave Nelson
David Viele

Deborah Maurer
Clerk of Session

BOARD OF DEACONS

CLASS OF 2026

Allan Engler
Beth Richter
Karen Tasman
Connie Willhite

CLASS OF 2027

Connie Burkert, Moderator
Linda Nelson
DeAnne Sawyer
Karen Viele

CLASS OF 2028

Angelette Arias
Yacelis Dotres
Sally Kaskocsak
Juan Pablo Oliva

TRUSTEES

Wilson Wheeler

Beverly Beardsley

Pete Burkert

SERVING PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Christine Larson
Human Resources

DeAnne Sawyer
Presbyterian Homes

Rev. Becky Schwandt
Steering Committee –
Moderator
Rev. Courtney Ducharme
Finance
Rev. Winston Lawson
Committee on Ministry

Beverly Grady
Committee on Ministry

Barb Sheets
Cedarkirk Board



Covenant Presbyterian Church
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Website: www.covpcfm.com