



The Courier

April
2015

Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church

Our Vision: *This is the place.....where you will experience Christ.*



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Services - March 29

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Service
- 9:30 a.m. Parade of the Palms/Children
Praise Service - Voices in Bronze / Praise Team
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service - Voices in Bronze/Gloria Choir
- 11:00 a.m. Iglesia Presbiteriana

Maundy Thursday Service - April 2nd - 6:00 pm

Begins in the Fellowship Hall and continues on into the Sanctuary
We will gather to share a meager meal of soup, salad and beverage at 6:00 p.m.
A Love Offering will be taken for the meal. This will be followed by a
worship service as we continue our journey toward Easter Sunday.
The Gloria Choir will present *Upon This Rock!* by Pepper Choplin.

Good Friday - April 3rd - Open for Prayer Noon until 3:00pm Office Closes at Noon

Easter Egg Hunt - April 4th - 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday Services - April 5th

- 7:00 a.m. **Sunrise Service-Outside by the Fellowship Hall
- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Service
- 9:30 a.m. Praise Service
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service (includes Spanish Ministry)
Gloria Choir/Voices in Bronze
Guest Organist, Ron Hagemeyer
Invitation to sing the Hallelujah Chorus at the end
of the service

***Easter Breakfast—There will be a continental breakfast following the Sunrise Service. A love offering will be accepted.*

Monday, April 6th—Office Closed



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Presbyterian Women Moderator
 Pat France

Moderator of the Deacons
 Amy Cottrell

Church Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00P.M.

Editor's Note: Some articles may be edited for space. Some are left intact by request of their authors.



**OUR NEWEST MEMBERS
 OF CLPC**

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 239-233-0664

James & Leah Barfoot
 12911 Parkline Dr.
 Ft. Myers, FL 33913
 253-261-8759

Lee & Judy Bomgaars
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Ron & Betsy Howlett
 12979 Kedleston Circle
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 239-768-2468

Jim & Lynn Miller
 16186 Coco Hammock Way
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 217-260-1500



**Enjoy the Convenience of
 Electronic Giving**

Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church wants to remind everyone that **we offer electronic giving** as a way to automate your offering. You can give to Operations, Missions, Food Pantry and a few others. You make the determination.

Electronic giving offers you **convenience** (no need to write a check!), reduces the money counting effort on the Church volunteers and provides a much needed donation consistency for our church (especially desirable for our seasonal attendees).

Automatically transfer funds on a pre-determined schedule from your checking account, savings account or your credit card to the CLPC bank account.

Online Giving lets you go to our Church Website (www.CLPC.US) at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office and on line via the CLPC Website (www.CLPC.us).

The church is very much like a family. Within family life there are good times and bad, there are financial highs and financial lows, there are times when there are a LOT of children and then there are the years "between" the kids. And yes, there are the times of birth (a most joyous time) and the times of death (a most sad time). This past month has seen a rash of loved ones passing away.



We first mourned the passing of David Ness. Many of our members probably didn't know David, but he was a lovely, kind Christian who walked closely with the Lord, joining the church about 3 years ago when his health forced him to move into an assisted living center close to the church. David's final hours were spent in hospice where he was well cared for.

We mourned the passing of Jim Wray. Jim had fought valiantly against the ravages of prostate, lung and brain cancer. Up until moments before his passing from an embolism, he continued to love and care for others. Even as his health was failing, he was concerned not just for his family, but his friends and even the property around the church. I had been at the hospital for a little while and he was concerned, insisting that it was okay to go home (said it twice) and his last words to me were, "I love you" as a brother. At 64, this was hard on many of us as we said goodbye.

Sarah Otenti's mom had been battling declining health for a LONG time and was under hospice care. A devout Christian and charter member of the Presbyterian church in Estero, Dorothy had served the Lord long and hard for many, many years.

Not known to the congregation but know to me, a very dear friend of mine (and a former manager that I worked for in the federal government) had a son who had a mental illness. His son had suffered with it for many years and my friend Arnie did everything he could to help his son. But several weeks ago, something happened and his son snapped. No one saw it coming and the outcome was horrible. His son took one of his dad's hunting guns and shot his dad and then took his own life. Arnie (who is 81) survived the shooting but imagine the horror he is going through not just physically but emotionally.

I will be honest with you, these "times" in the church are very challenging. Indeed, they can be debilitating to someone who lacks hope. But in the midst of these challenges my mind turns to what we are going to celebrate the first week of April, Good Friday AND Easter! On Good Friday all the disciples, friends and mother of Jesus could see was the horror of the cross. Truly, the most horrible event one could imagine. Think how they all felt that night as they went to bed or how they felt the next day, the Sabbath, when they are supposed to be praising and giving thanks to God. Life had to have looked horrible!

Sunday morning rolls around and before daybreak, life still looks as bleak as it did the day before. Jesus is dead and about to be sealed in a tomb. But then something happens, they find a risen Lord and suddenly everything has changed. Sadness is replaced with joy, and there is now a hope and promise of new life for all of us. In a wink of an eye, the world was immediately altered.

For us as Christians, we have something that is truly powerful: promise and hope. A promise that those who believe in Christ will have a resurrection and out of that promise we have hope! But there still remains the fact that we miss, right now, those who we love. There IS that promise and hope, but when someone passes away, we want to see them right NOW! And that leaves a hole in all of our lives. Yet, there is a promise that everything WILL be okay, we just need to be patient.

So in just a few days we will be celebrating something that is far more than a time to eat chocolate or ham. A holiday that means much more than Easter eggs or rabbits. It is TRULY a day of hope and a day of promise, that even in the darkest hours of our lives, there is the assurance that God is in control and all will be well. So come and celebrate, for there is much to be thankful for!

Maundy Thursday Worship (with Choir Cantata, the Lord's Supper and the "Pounding of the Nails")
April 2 at 7:00 PM

Good Friday Prayer Vigil
(the Worship Center is open for folks to come and go for prayers)
April 3 at 12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM

Community Easter Egg Hunt – April 4 at 10:00 AM

Easter Sunrise (Weather Permitting, Outside on the North end of the campus) – April 5 at 7:00 AM
Easter Worship – April 5 at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 AM
(The Spanish celebration will join us at 11:00 for combined worship)

Blessings,

Pastor Clint



CANCER RELAY FOR LIFE

Do you have a loved one who has/had cancer whom you would like to honor by dedicating a luminaria? For \$5, you can help light the 2015 Cancer Relay for Life path, on April 18th. Please ask Betsy Peters or Pam Simones for more information.



2nd Otto & Sheila Muller-Girard
 3rd Gerald & Wendy McCabe
 19th Rod & Sue Herrick
 20th Sam & Leslie McGargle
 27th Carol & Gar Sarosik



1st Clint Cottrell
 Peyton Hayman
 3rd James Oestriech
 7th Donna Dunnuck
 8th Abigail Hill
 10th Larry Johnson
 Marjorie Marlow
 Lynn Miller
 12th Don Little
 Michele Pepper
 14th Rob Coe
 Virginia Burford
 16th Nola LaRose
 18th Douglas J. Wilson
 Ken Burbach
 19th Elizabeth Peters
 Ryan Mills
 20th Robert Shrader
 21st Sheila Muller-Girard
 Robert Stein
 22nd Paulette Stadelmann
 23rd Mae Osborne
 28th DeAnna Steward
 Roberta Radcliff
 Maria Menacho
 30th Penny Roberts
 Lisa Kendall



SOUTH FT. MYERS FOOD PANTRY



During April, we will be collecting hot or cold cereal. There will be a shopping cart in the Narthex for your donations.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Operation Christmas Child was quite a success this past year and we would like to prepare ourselves for an even more exciting 2015! We plan to have a monthly collection of items to be used in shoe boxes that we will complete at a packing party in September. **Our 2015 goal is 1,000 boxes!** **Monetary donations** can be made so that we can order many things in bulk. You can place your donation in a pew envelope clearly marked Operation Christmas Child. **During April, we will collect Bouncy Balls, Jump Ropes, & Paddle Balls.** There will be a collection box in the Narthex. Purchases from the dollar store, flea market or dentist office, will help us to double last year's goal.



NEW HYMNALS!

Thank you for the wonderful response to the purchase of the new Hymnals that will be used in our Sanctuary! The response has been overwhelming and certain to enhance our Worship.

Please look at the dedication of each of these hymnals. They have been given in Honor of or in Memory of our families and friends. Some have been designated to the Glory of our God. When we sing together, we are together and lifting our Praises in music Ministry. Thanks Be to God!



YOUTH CAR WASH



The Youth Group Car Wash raised over \$700 and washed over 40 cars on Sunday, March 22. We are very grateful for those who gave of their money and their time. 10% of the money raised is going towards Vacation Bible School in June.

SCRIP CARDS



Make a contribution to the Church by shopping with gift cards for everyday purchases like food, clothing and entertainment. Each scrip gift card you buy earns a rebate for the Church. A secured "Order Box" is located in the Narthex (on South wall next to sound room) and also in the Church office for placing orders. Orders will be picked up @ 11:00 AM the 1st Sunday of each month and available for delivery the 2nd Sunday. A check payable to CLPC for the total must accompany the order. Order Forms are located in Slot# 16 in the Narthex and in the "Scrip Order Boxes". You can also place an order online at www.shopwithscrip.com.



***FLOWER GUILD
APRIL, 2015***



- April 5th Judy Schulte-Easter
- April 12th Jean Dodd
- April 19th Terry Miller
- April 26th Sally Fontaine

Picnic Sunday!!

Sunday, April 19th, one service at 10:00am, followed by the Church Picnic! Youth will be presenting several skits, the Angels Rock! will be ringing Chimes and singing along with the youth and children greeting ushering, all lead by the guidance of our Director of Children and Youth Disciplemaking, Jessica Osegueda. Please join in this wonderful time of Worship. Our children and youth are an integral part of our Worship and all of them are Today's Christians!



 **Presbyterian Women**

April 2015

5th		Easter Sunday
6th	9:30 am 1:00 pm	Project Linus Blanket Work Day Executive Board Meeting <i>(Chapel/Library)</i>
9th	7:00 pm	Eve Circle <i>(Chapel)</i>
14th	9:30 am 12:30 pm	Martha Circle <i>(Fellowship Hall)</i> Esther Circle <i>(Fellowship Hall)</i>
22nd	10:30 am 11:15 am 12:00 pm	PW Gathering Election of 2015-2016 Board Reading of 2015-2016 Budget Program-Human Trafficking Luncheon-Hosted by Board

**Chancel Guild
April 2015 Schedule**



- 3rd** Irene Thiessen
- 10th** Judy Schulte
Dorothy Troy
- 17th** Doris Houston
Rebecca Potts
- 24th** Sue Chanofsky
Betty Schaarschuch

If you can't work your day, swap with someone or call me. Thanks for your continued help.

Irene Thiessen, Chancel Guild Dir.



The transportation committee is responsible for arranging rides for church family members who either no longer drive, or are in need of temporary transportation to church services, church meetings and health care appointments.

In order to meet those needs, we are in need of more volunteer drivers. If you would be willing to spare an hour or two occasionally, please call the church office with your name and home phone number and ask to be added to our list of drivers.

Do for our church family/friends as you would like done for you should you become infirm or limited.

Support this ministry of CLPC.

Gloria Long, Deacon

Fellowship Opportunities

Coffee Hour



Coffee is served most Sundays from 8:30-11 in Fellowship Hall. Rather than congregating in the narthex after church, come over and relax with fresh coffee or tea. There are goodies to be enjoyed and of course wonderful conversation with your church family.

All Church Picnic

On April 19th we will celebrate our Lord with one worship service at 10 AM. Following that we will share the joy of fellowship in our parking lot (behind the Fellowship Hall) with a picnic. Please join us for hot dogs & hamburgers. The rest of the meal will be POTLUCK, so plan to bring enough to share with 4-6 people.

Desserts (last name A-F), **Salads** (G-M), and **Side Dish** (N-Z).

There will be a bounce house for the children, a fishing tournament in the church's pond, horse shoes, & yard games. Come and enjoy the Florida sunshine and your church family!

MOVIE AND GAME NIGHT



Movie and Game Nights are held in Fellowship Hall on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. Games will be the 2nd Friday and Movies the 4th Friday. The evening will run from 7-10 p.m. Each person or family can bring their own snacks. There will be a schedule in the Narthex so you can check on the dates and "what is playing" on movie night.



Mission Announcements



Operation Christmas Child is preparing to reach our goal of **1,000 boxes** this September. We are collecting items each month (this month is small toys such as bouncy balls, jump ropes, or yoyos). We will also take donations so that we can order in bulk and receive more for our money. You can place a donation in a pew envelope clearly marked with Operation Christmas Child, and place it in the offering plate. There is a box in the narthex for your items.

South Ft. Myers Food Pantry

We are collecting boxes of cereal this month to help feed those in our area who come to the pantry which is located in our Fellowship Hall. This can be oatmeal, small individual boxes, or larger boxes of cereal. Place your items in the shopping cart located in the narthex. In February our congregation donated over 200 boxed sides.



CLPC Presbyterian Women's Gathering

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

CLPC Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m.

Ladies ... our program concerns a topic that has touched our community at our very own doorsteps - "Human Trafficking." Nola Theiss will be our speaker. She is the founder of HTAP (Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships) and is Executive Director of the SWFL Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Please join us to learn their mission of bringing the issue of human trafficking to the forefront of public awareness. The CLPC Presbyterian Women's Executive Board will be hosting the luncheon. **REMEMBER** to invite a guest and RSVP on the sign-up sheet after church or call the CLPC office - 481-3233 by April 8, 2015.



To God's children:

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring.

He sends you a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, He listens.

He can live anywhere in the Universe, but He chose your heart.

Now God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way.

So face it. He is crazy about you!

Therefore let us; GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!



Women's Circles

Eve Circle will meet on April 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Martha Circle will meet on April 14th at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Esther Circle will meet on April 14th at 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.



**Men's Breakfast
Fellowship Hall
Miracle Baseball
Tuesday, April 14th**



Monday Night Men's Group

A weekly evening meeting of Christian men is happening at CLPC. Can you believe it? The hope of a few men at the Monthly Breakfast in September grew to be a reality over the last 6 weeks. A growing number of member and friends of CLPC are meeting to share personal faith stories and to receive the support of their fellow Christians in their daily lives.

It was easier than we dared dream. Truly our Lord has blessed our fellowship. We are strongly supported by Pastor Clint, as we review his sermon and additional notes he provides each week. There is no preparation time required. Just show up and be welcomed into a ministry of sharing.



ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!!

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on **Saturday, April 4th 10:00 a.m.**



Invite your neighbors and friends; everyone is welcome! Join in for all the excitement!



THANK YOU

*ALL ye that helped with the Attic Treasure Sale!
You were wonderful, hard workers, joyful workers, fun workers, never give up workers.*

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

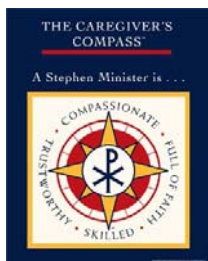
Miss Ginny



Attic Treasure Sale

Gin and other spiritual matters.....

Easter is upon us, one of our busiest times of the Christian year... Don't forget that Easter is also a "season"...not just one day in our lives. We began this special season "way back" on Feb. 18th, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. On Sunday, March 29th we begin the holiest week of our church's year...Holy Week. Things that happen during that week are every bit as important as what happens on Easter Sunday. We eat a meager meal and celebrate Communion and the Crucifixion of our Lord, and finally we celebrate His Resurrection. Don't forget that the only way to gain the complete meaning of this season and week is participate in ALL the celebrations. The reenactment and somberness of the Passover Feast and Crucifixion is just as important ... is equally as important ... as the joy of Easter morning. And joy of Easter morning is so much more significant and meaningful when the somberness has been experienced.



Stephen Ministry

What has happened to the Stephen Ministry at CLPC?

We are still here! We are still ministering!

It's gone from "standard time" to "daylight savings" time, from winter to spring, from chilly weather to warmer weather, from "normal traffic" to "snowbird traffic", from Christmas decorations to Easter decorations.

AND

Stephen Ministry is still here!

Just as seasons, time, traffic, etc. change, so do other things in our lives. New people enter our lives, long-time friends move away or die. Our health changes, the health of people in our family changes, we change residences, we work on changing our eating and/or exercise habits.

AND

Stephen ministry is still ministering.

REMEMBER: Stephen Ministry does not change. We still listen, pray, keep confidentiality, listen, comfort, offer suggestions, walk with our care receivers, listen and are there when needed. If you are dealing with some type of crisis or difficulty in life, I encourage you to meet with a Stephen Minister. You won't regret it!

Stephen Ministry

God's Love in Action