

The CYPRESS LAKE PRESBYTERIAN
COURIER DECEMBER/JANUARY
ISSUE



Christmas Eve—Family Celebration

Pre Music at 5:30 p.m.

Family Service begins at 6:00 p.m.

Angels Rock! will sing along with our wonderful Praise Team

Voices in Bronze ringing:

And Heaven and Nature Sing

(flashlights will be available for our candle lighting)

Christmas Eve - Traditional Celebration

Pre Music at 8:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service begins at 9:00 p.m.

Gloria Choir: Christmas Sanctus and

Et In Terra Pax

Guest Organist: Ron Hagemeyer

Christmas Day

*Christmas Day Service of Scriptures and Carols
at 8:00 a.m.*

Sunday, December 27th
One Service at 10:00 a.m.



December 13th
4:00 p.m.
Reception following
in the Narthex

“Good King Wenceslas”
All Church Musical
Angels Rock!, Gloria Choir



**TEDDY BEAR
COLLECTION**

Sponsored by the Gloria Choir

The Choir is asking for donations of NEW Teddy Bears/Stuffed Animals to take to the children at the Golisano Children’s Hospital at Health Park. Any new stuffed animal will be greatly appreciated by the children who are spending time during the year trying to get well. A stuffy is such a great warm and cuddly companion for our children. Thank you in advance for your gift of kindness and love.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

The next New Member Orientation and Luncheon will be December 6, 2015. The class will start after the 11 a.m. celebration of worship. Call the church office at 481-3233 to sign up or email the church at mail@clpc.us.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Make A Difference Day, is the gathering of all the Linus Blanket Chapters in Lee County at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, 8260 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, on Saturday, January 30th in the Fellowship Hall from 9 A.M. to Noon. Y’all come! Please bring all your blankets and put them on display. We will have speakers from each of these groups to tell how the blankets help calm children down when confronted with major concerns. The meeting will be led by Matilda Wilson, Coordinator for Project Linus in Lee County. For more information, please call Matilda at 489-3582 or jamesww551@aol.com.





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Sexton
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Clerk of Session
 Gordon Coffman

Presbyterian Women Moderator
 Sandy Wharton

Moderator of the Deacons
 Gloria Long
 Millie Poland

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.

Tiger Butter Sales are happening the first 2 Sundays in December. This delicious peanut butter, milk chocolate, and white chocolate combination candy, makes for a great gift for the Holidays and an even greater snack. Pre-Orders are being taken by Jessica throughout November. Please contact her through e-mail at Jessica@clpc.us or phone at 239-481-3233. ½ lb. is \$7 and 1 lb. is \$13. If you do not pre-order we will have a limited amount of extra left over.

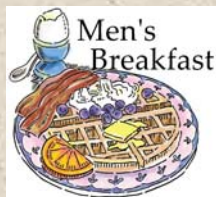


Yankee Candle Fundraiser is still active until the end of the year, please visit this website:

<https://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com/> and put in our code at the bottom right where it says, "Start Shopping." The code is 990084659. This will insure that CLPC gets the credit. Forty percent (40 %) of all purchases come back to CLPC. These funds will be going towards our **Super Kids Club**.



Men's Breakfast Fellowship Hall



**Tuesday, December 8th
 8:00am**

**Tuesday, January 12th
 8:00 am**



Blood Drive

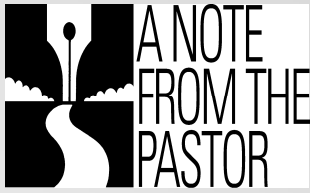
The next Blood Drive will be Sunday, December 13th from 8:15 a.m.-12:45 pm.

For an appointment, please call Tim Baldwin at 937-369-6069. Give the gift of Life!!

YOUTH CARWASH A SUCCESS!!

The Car Wash on November 8th, brought in \$770. The Youth Group washed about 45 cars. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated. We are very grateful. 10% is going towards Operation Christmas Child.





An EXCITING Year Lies Ahead!!!

Right now it is hard to talk about 2016, but it is right around the corner. Advent is beginning and in 4 weeks it will be Christmas day with New Year's to follow. What would be a gift that WE could give to the Christ child for the coming year? Well, keep reading!

This coming year will be an exciting time for CLPC. We plan to make the Bible the theme for special emphasis during the ENTIRE year! This book is basic to our faith, progressive or conservative, young or old, English speaker or an immigrant whose native tongue is Spanish. This book has sustained millions and millions of people throughout their lives. This is book is special: it is God's word to men and women like you and me.

Yet many people say that they do not know the Bible very well. We hope to change that in 2016! The ministry teams and Session have adopted a program that is called *Year of the Bible*. The centerpiece for this program is a challenge to everyone to **READ THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR!!!** We will be providing help and guidance as the year progresses. There will be participant books, Bible studies for all ages, question and answers each week in the bulletin, and I will be preaching from what we are reading every week.

What is the commitment? About 15-20 minutes a day in reading. We suggest that you supplement that by attending one of our Bible studies, but the basic commitment is to read the Bible. Some of us may say, "Hey, I did that once before back in 2006!" That may be true, but I have completed a *Year of the Bible* 5 times now and EVERY time I read something and then scratch my head saying, "I don't remember reading that before!" Why? Because every time we read the Bible God speaks fresh to each of us AND, we have changed as well (be it growing older, having children or grandchildren, retired or changed jobs, moved, etc.)...we change and God speaks fresh to us every time we read His word.

Throughout December watch for more details. This is a challenge and it will require commitment, but you will find the effort well worth your time. If you can't wait for more information or if you would like to help in planning for the program, drop me an email or give me a call.

In the meantime, enjoy Advent and the Christmas and New Years that will follow...surely one of the happiest times of the year!

Blessings,

Pastor Clint

Flower Guild

The CLPC Congregation bestow our thanks and gratitude for the humble service of flower preparation and deliveries every week (year round). Our Florists are: Judy Schulte, Jean Dodd, Sally Fontaine, and Terry Miller. Flower delivery to shut-ins/hospitalized are taken by the Deacons.

Thank you again for sharing your God given gifts. If you are interested in joining our Flower Guild, please contact the office at 481-3233 or Kirk Charles at 910-7758.



Martha & Esther

Circles will meet on December 8, 2015 at 11a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for our Christmas Luncheon.



On January 12, 2016 we will be meeting at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Eve Circle will meet on December 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Oh My Gosh, A Change is Coming at CLPC!

Traditionally new church members receive a box of pledge envelopes with their own number printed in the corner. Every year the church supplies a new batch of 52 envelopes with the magical number. In the past that number assured the proper tracking of your donations to the church. Well, today with computers, electronic giving, and a wide variety of giving methods we began to consider are the numbers now obsolete? As we studied this issue we recognized that even though members received a box of 52 envelopes many only used a few if any! Not everyone gives weekly. Some members give monthly, some quarterly, some annually, and some never use their envelopes because they give electronically. Obviously many envelopes are being wasted.

Now here's the real kicker. The numbered envelopes are costing the church about \$1,000 a year for our current membership. With all the above being considered, we began discussions with our Office Manager on what would happen if we discontinued the numbered envelopes. Karen welcomed the idea, endorsed it totally, and assured us that all she needs is a name and amount of donation. That is how she tracks donations in the computer.

Therefore, beginning with 2016 we enter a new era of utilizing the Pew Envelopes (much, much cheaper) already supplied in the pew racks. Remember I said Karen tracks your donation by name? So really if you are using a check with your name imprinted on it for your donation, you don't have to use any envelope unless you feel the need. If you use a Pew Envelope for your donation, cash or check, just print your name and the amount of your donation on the front and you'll get the credit. Simple as that! Now if you intend for a particular donation to cover more than your weekly pledge, just note that in the memo space right on your check or on the envelope.

So who said Presbyterians resist change? To save CLPC a \$1,000 dollars? Bring it on!

Hawley Botchford, Chair
Stewardship and Investment Team

Welcome 2016!



Presbyterian Women

December 2015

- 5th 8:30 am PW Gathering (CT) *(Fellowship Hall)*
- 7th 9:30 am Project Linus Blanket Work Day *(CE1-Rm. 2)*
- 1:00 pm PW Coordinating Tm. *(Chapel)*
- 8th 11:00 am Martha & Esther Circle Christmas Luncheon *(Fellowship Hall)*
- 10th 7:00 pm Eve Circle *(Fellowship Hall)*

January 2016

- 1st Happy New Year!
- 4th 9:30 am Project Linus Blanket Work Day *(CE1-Rm. 2)*
- 1:00 pm PW Coordinating Tm. *(Library)*
- 12th 10:00 am Martha & Esther Circle *(Fellowship Hall)*
- 14th 7:00 pm Eve Circle *(Fellowship Hall)*
- 15st 5:30 pm Lasagna Dinner *(Fellowship Hall)*
- 23rd 10:30 am PW Gathering (Eve) Fashion Show
- 25th 9:00-1pm Linus Blanket-Make A Difference Day *(Fellowship Hall)*



Presbyterian Women's Angelic Gathering December 5, 2015

Ladies...this will be a special Gathering with lots of surprises! Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. A holiday brunch will be served at 10 a.m. Be an angel - join us December 5th...AND... be touched by an angel. Our speaker is The Rev. Dr. Valerie Bell. RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or call the church office at 481-3233 by November 30th.



Thank you CLPC family and friends

Thank you to each person who helped miracles happen again this year with your prayers, your monetary support, and your lovingly packed shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The Bible assures us that “the prayer of the righteous person has great power and wonderful results” (James 5:16, NLT). If one fervent prayer is so powerful, imagine what millions can do. Please pray for each child who will receive a shoe box and ask God to touch that child’s heart. That’s where the real power of

Operation Christmas Child lies—in God’s answer to those millions of heartfelt prayers. This past year, Samaritan’s Purse collected more than 8 million gift-filled shoe boxes that were distributed in over 130 countries around the world. That means millions of children have experienced the truth of the Gospel, which they will share with their families and friends. To God be the glory!!!



FLOWER GUILD DECEMBER 2015



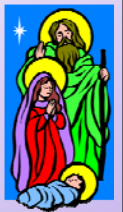
December 6th	Judy Schulte
December 13th	Terry Miller
December 20th	Jean Dodd
December 24th	Worship Committee
25th	Worship Committee
27th	Worship Committee

JANUARY 2016

January 3rd	Sally Fontaine
January 10th	Judy Schulte
January 17th	Terry Miller
January 24th	Jean Dodd
January 31st	Sally Fontaine

The season of giving...

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported **Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church** this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members and friends in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions.



Visit www.clpc.us or contact the church office for more information.

Thinking about Holiday shopping online??

Go to this website: www.smile.amazon.com Things purchased through this website, benefits New Horizons. You must access it through a laptop/computer. Thank you in advance. Happy Holidays!



Super Kids Club will be closed during the Holiday break; Monday, December 21-Thursday, January 31. We want to say a BIG THANK YOU to our volunteers! SKC could not happen with out you. We hope you enjoy your Holiday Season. Please be sure to take a card from our Donation Christmas tree in the Narthex to give a child from SKC a present this Christmas. God Bless you!

SAVE THE DATE- ATTIC TREASURE SALE DATE CHANGE



While the Super Kids are on break (March 28th-April 1st), the workers will be setting up for the Attic Treasure Sale in the Fellowship Hall. **SAVE THE DATE of April 2, 2016** for the Attic Treasure Sale.

Feliz Navidad

The Spanish Ministry Team will be putting on a traditional Latin American Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 20th at 5:00 p.m. The meal will be prepared by our Spanish speaking members. Dinner to include the main course, side dishes, dessert and beverage. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 in the Narthex or church office.



BLANKET PLUS

Church World Service was born in 1946 with the mission: "Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged, shelter the homeless." Over 8000 congregations across the United States are



involved in the Blankets program. For the first six months of 2014, 1740 blankets were distributed with all but 210 going to various states in the U.S. The blankets are provided to the homeless and economically disadvantaged through shelters and churches of all denominations. Besides blankets CWS provides life skills training, literacy training, provides hygiene nutrition and food safety training, disaster relief, building supplies, seedlings for fruits and vegetables and helps sustain safe water supplies. Your support to CLPC throughout the year helps to support this mission.



DEACONS NEED YOUR HELP!!

Would you be willing to take the flowers from the Sunday service to a member of the congregation who is in a hospital, nursing home or ill and cannot come to church? Please contact Judy Norris, Deacon, at 614-989-0541 to sign up. Thank you.



Chancel Guild

December 2015

4th Irene Thiessen
11th Judy Schulte
Dorothy Troy
18th Irene Thiessen
23rd Sue Chanofsky
Martin Chanofsky

January 2016

1st Irene Thiessen
8th Judy Schulte
Dorothy Troy
15th Irene Thiessen
22nd Sue Chanofsky
Martin Chanofsky
31st Irene Thiessen

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

Irene Thiessen, Chancel Guild



Save The Date for the Presbyterian Women's Lasagna Dinner!

Friday, January 15th 2016

Dine In 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Take Out - 5:30-6:30 pm

Come join us and bring your friends on Friday, January 15th for our lasagna dinner. This is a fundraiser for the Presbyterian Women's Mission.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 10. Tickets will be on sale the end of December.

Life Line Screening's Mobile Health Testing Units Are Coming

Where: Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church

When: Friday, January 29, 2016



Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on Friday, January 29th. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.**

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

MUSIC IN THE NEWS



Traditional Worship Schedule 11:00AM

Gloria Choir will be singing at all of the services

Nov. 29 **1st Sunday Advent:**
A Light Will Shine

Special Guests: Gale Wray,
Sharon and Rev. Bob Cassady: Trio

Dec. 6 **2nd Sunday Advent:**
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Special Guests: Matt and Tina Zawaisa
Drama about Joseph

Dec. 13 **3rd Sunday Advent:**
With Open Hearts

Special Music: Voices in Bronze ringing *Hallelujah*

Dec. 20 **4th Sunday Advent:**
Follow the Christmas Star

Special Music: Angels Rock! singing:
Walking Shoes

January 3 Back to all services at 8, 9:30, and 11
Pam Simones, guest soprano

January 10 11 am Gloria Choir singing
Dona Nobis Pacem

Away In a Manger

No Christmas song is more loved than this tender children's carol. With its simply worded expression of love for the Lord Jesus and trust in His faithful



care, the hymn appeals to young and old alike. It is usually one of the first Christmas songs learned in early childhood, yet its pleasing melody and gentle message preserve it in our affections all through life.

For some time *Away in a Manger* was titled *Luther's Cradle Hymn*. It was thought to have been written by Martin Luther for his own children and then passed on by German mothers. Modern research discounts this claim; however, stanzas one and two first appeared in the *Little Children's Book*, published in Philadelphia in 1885. The third verse was written by a Methodist minister, Dr. John T. McFarland, in the early 1900's when an additional stanza for this carol was desired for use at a church children's day program.

How important it is that we take time to help our children see beyond the glitter of the Christmas season and teach them the true meaning of Christ's birth. The most thrilling story ever known to man began in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Use this season to enjoy times of family worship.

Include the reading of the Christmas story: Luke 2:1-20, share personal insights from the story, dramatize the various events, sing and play the carols, pray together, and discuss how family could share their joy with others.

Merry Christmas to all,

Rachel

Birthdays and Anniversaries



December

December Birthdays

- 2nd Michael Hornung
Rich Badalaty
6th Jean Dodd
Marvin Birdt
Betty Serra
8th Dolores Warren
9th Kay Hill
Stuart Botchford
10th Tommy Kendall
Lily Kendall
David Welsh
11th Jean Shell
13th Lynne Birdt
Charles Place
14th Caleb Kiss
16th Jim McFadden
17th Doris Sparrow
Lee Conrad
21st Bob O'Neill
22nd Rachel Carrier
23rd Krista McAloose
Amanda Johnson
24th Katherine Welsh
Mary Githieya
Saenu Dougherty
26th Carol Walker
27th Emma Hayman
31st Joanne Daume

December Anniversaries

- 3rd Donald & Lois Siemon
Charles & Kelly Hayman
7th James & Carol Boles
16th Rich & Marietta Meacham
21st Dorothy & Tom Wilson
29th Richard & Elizabeth Colvin
30th Rick & Sharon Werner



JANUARY

January Birthdays

- 4th Connie Hope
5th Jim Warren
6th Walter Goff
7th Richard Meacham
Ann Sims
8th Sharon Werner
9th Sam McGargle
10th Darlene Harshbarger
Janice Ulrich
Pam Darst
11th Mildred Kling
Gene Witney
Mary Eleanor Farrell
13th Harold Gerhardt
14th Irene Thiessen
Carol Howe
Suzanne Matsumoto
15th Mary Gisse
Rick Gow
John Harris
16th Mackenzie Kiss
David Radcliff
17th Kay Slusher
Pamela Simones
18th Carolyn Hornung
Brett Pappalardo
20th Ana Agama
23rd Elizabeth Schaarschuch
25th James Sharpe
26th Nancy Rose Knoll
29th Audrey Wilson
31st Mildred Poland

January Anniversaries

- 8th Robert & Eileen Coe
Bob & Bari O'Neill
16th Bob & Fran Baughman
25th Ambrose & Carol Walker
27th Harold & Rachel Carrier