



The Courier

Our Vision: To become known as the Church where you experience Christ.

Cypress Lake
Presbyterian Church

January
2013



Save The Date
for the Presbyterian Women's
Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner!

Spaghetti Dinner Friday, January 25th, 2013
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 25th for our spaghetti dinner. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10. Tickets will be on sale Sundays in the Narthex or during the week in the church office.

mid December.



Linus Blanket Project "Make A Difference Day"



Saturday, January 26, 2013 9
A.M. - NOON
Fellowship Hall

PROJECT LINUS BANKETS

Our Make A Difference Day will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2013 in Fellowship Hall from 9 A.M. to about noon.

Project Linus was named after the adorable blanket toting character from the peanuts comic strip by creator Charles Schultz. He was aware of our efforts and delighted to have Linus inspire blanket makers all over the world to help comfort children in crises.

Therefore, any age can help a child by making a blanket-knitted, crocheted, fleecy or quilted. You can help by donating new light-colored cotton fabric, 4-ply knitting yarn or just cash, so we can purchase these supplies.

"The best kind of sleep under heaven above is under a blanket handmade with love."

Matilda Wilson and Pat France
489-3582 561-3085

New Members

Please welcome our newest members!

Walter & Beth Holt
19681 Summerlin Rd., #675
Ft. Myers, FL 33908
454-0501

Robert & Marilyn Sauer
19681 Summerlin Rd., #696
Ft. Myers, FL 33908
466-5514

Jan Comer
6852 Sandtrap Dr., #1
Ft. Myers, FL 33919
437-4890

John & Donna Phelps
5565 Trailwinds Dr.
Ft. Myers, FL 33907
330-329-4376

Wanda Bishop
6640 Plantation Pines Blvd.
Ft. Myers, FL 33966
560-2652

Paul & Rose Mungoli
7921 Reflection Cove Dr., #202
Ft. Myers, FL 33907
822-5274

David Ness
60 Lake Breeze Dr., #205
Ft. Myers, FL 33907
878-5614

Daniella Campbell
6308 Panther Ln., #J-6
Ft. Myers, FL 33919
384-3018

Doug Soles
15694 Iona Lakes Dr.
Ft. Myers, FL 33908
941-448-0229

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Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church
8260 Cypress Lake Drive
Fort Myers, Florida 33919
Phone: (239) 481-3233
Fax: (239) 481-5198
E-mail: mail@clpc.us
Web site: www.clpc.us

Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Clinton C. Cottrell
clint@clpc.us

Pastor of Visitation Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Harold Simones

Director of Worship & Music
Rachel Carrier
rachel@clpc.us

Interim Praise Team Leader
Travis Larson
travis@clpc.us

Christian Education Director
Ginny Canning
ginny@clpc.us

Office Manager
Karen May
karen@clpc.us

Director, Safe Haven Christian School
Julia Neal
julia@clpc.us

Nursery Attendant
Stacia Kiss

Sexton
Charles Barnhill

Staff Musician
Douglas Parker

Clerk of Session
Bobbi Bancroft

Presbyterian Women Moderator
Pat France

Moderator of Deacons
Betty Ann Kelly

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.



Presbyterian Women

January 2013

1st		Happy New Year!
7th	9:30 am 1:00 pm	Project Linus Blanket Work Day Executive Board Mtg.
8th	9:30 am 12:30 pm	Martha Circle Esther Circle (Fellowship Hall)
10th	7:00 pm	Eve Circle
20th		Blankets & Tools of Hope Sunday <i>Offering taken at 8:00, 9:00, & 11:00am Services</i>
25th	5:30 pm	Spaghetti/Meatball Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
26th	9:00-1 pm	Make A Difference Day (Linus Project) <i>(Fellowship Hall)</i>



Blood Drive Success!
BLOOD DRIVE On December 2nd, the Florida Blood Centers mobile collection vehicle registered 19 donors and collected 18 units!

Every donation potentially saves up to 3 lives and stays in our greater Lee County community. Thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this program.

The next blood drive will be **February 10th, 2013!**

Chancel Guild

January 2013 Schedule

4th	Irene Thiessen Betty Schaarschuch
11th	Irene Thiessen Pam Smith
18th	Jackie Oestriech Dorothy Troy
25th	Doris Houston Rebecca Potts

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

Irene Thiessen, Chancel Guild

**Tuesday
January 8th**



**Men's
Breakfast**

7:00 am the Sunflower Cafe
Speaker: Tom Galton
Food Pantry



**Who is God? What has God done lately?
 Who is Jesus? What did he REALLY do?
 Who or what is the Holy Spirit?
 And by the way, what REALLY makes the Bible so special?
 Am I inherently good or inherently bad? It is SO confusing!**



These are questions that Christians have wrestled with for hundreds, whoops, thousands of years. Oddly enough, they are still as important today as they were when Jesus first walked this planet. The good news is, some very wise people over many years have tried to help us with, if not completely answer, those very questions.

On my end, I was asked by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to teach an online course on Reformed Theology. Now that sounds so incredibly boring to some folks; but the reality is, it is a course that asks the questions above, and a little more. As I read the books and prepared the online course, I began to think, we could take this VERY same course and with just some very minor revisions, make this a class for Cypress Lake. Don't worry, there will be no examinations and we won't have 1,500 pages of reading, nor any essays; but the CORE questions are ones that apply to ALL Christians!

Starting in early January, I will be teaching a class on Sunday morning from 10:00 – 10:45 and then again on Wednesday, at 6:30 PM (IDENTICAL class each week...you can easily move from one to the other). We WILL be using a wonderful little book from Donald McKim, costing only about \$13/book. It is very easy to read and understand; yet, it really helps get to the point of what it is we as humans often ask!

So here it is, the new year. Why not make a new year's resolution to grow in knowledge of God and yourself while also having a little fun wrestling with questions that we have had since the dawn of time. And who knows, maybe, just maybe, God will speak in a new way to you in 2013!

In the meantime, have a wonderful New Year's celebration; and may the Lord bless and keep you in every possible way!

Blessings,

Pastor Clint



Voices in Bronze will be in Concert on January 13, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. held in the Sanctuary of CLPC. There is no fee for the concert but a love offering will be taken at the concert which will go towards music scholarships for children and youth of teachers who are members of Calusa Musicale. This is sponsored by the Calusa Musicale, music club in Lee County, Fort Myers, Florida.

Rachel Carrier is the First vice-President of the club and invites all to attend this great time of bell ringing. Please join us in celebrating bell music and the future of our young students!

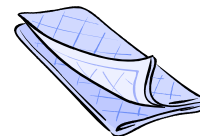
Angels Rock! will resume their practice on Wednesday, Jan. 9th, at 5:15 p.m. in Room 1 of the Fellowship Hall. Voices in Bronze will continue to rehearse on Tuesday beginning Jan. 8th in the Sanctuary with Cindy Basler.

Gloria Choir rehearsals also resume on Wednesday, Jan 9th, at 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Have a safe and restful few weeks off and be ready to do God's ministry when we return in January, 2013!!! Happy New Year!

Rachel Carrier, Director of Worship and Music



BLANKETS +



Sunday, January 20, 2013

Contributions to Blankets +, means that Church World Service is ready to help families around the World recover from disasters and build viable, sustainable lives and communities.


Please prayerfully consider your contribution to help others through **BLANKETS+**

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour has returned to the Fellowship Hall every Sunday from 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Stop over and join the fellowship!

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>W</i>
<p><u>Sunday Worship Schedule</u></p> <p>8:00 am Prayer Celebration 8:30-11 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Praise Celebration 9:15 am Kids Worship 10 am Bible Study 10:15 am Puppets 11:00 am Traditional Celebration</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year! Office Closed</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>9 am PIP</p> <p>No Pro</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 am Music Club Board 9:30 am Project Linus 12 pm Staff Mtg. 1 pm PW Exe. Bd. Mtg.</p> <p>Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Martha Circle 9:30 am Safe Haven Class 12:30 pm Esther Circle 6 pm Voices in Bronze 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Condo. Assn. Mtg. 7 pm Ministry Teams</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9 am PIP 10:15 am Childre 5:15 pm Angels 5:30 pm Youth 6 pm Kids c 6:30 pm Bible 6:30 pm Gloria 7 pm Boy S</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Voices in Bronze Concert 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9 am Calusa Musicale 12 pm Staff Mtg.</p> <p>Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 am Safe Haven Class 6 pm Voices in Bronze 6 pm Bible Study</p> <p>Courier Deadline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 am PIP 10:15 am Children? 5:15 pm Angels R 5:30 pm Youth Gr 6 pm All Chur 6:30 pm Bible Stu 6:30 pm Gloria CH 7 pm Boy Scou</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Blankets and Tools of Hope Sunday</p> <p>10:10 am Confirmation Class</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12 pm Staff Mtg. 2 pm Funeral/Pre-Planning</p> <p>Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am Safe Haven Class 6 pm Voices in Bronze 6 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9 am PIP 10:15 am Childre 5:15 pm Angels 5:30 pm Youth C 6 pm Kids di 6:30 pm Bible S 6:30 pm Gloria C 7 pm Boy Sc</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10:10 am Confirmation Class</p> <p>3 Cents A Meal</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12 pm Staff Mtg.</p> <p>Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am Safe Haven Class 6 pm Voices in Bronze 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Food Pantry Mtg.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9 am PIP 10:15 am Childre 5:15 pm Angels 5:30 pm Youth C 6 pm Kids di 6:30 pm Bible S 6:30 pm Gloria C 7 pm Boy Sc</p>

<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Programs	3 1-4 pm Organist Practice 4-10 pm Recital	4 3-6 pm Organist Practice	5 1-4 pm Organist Practice
Men's Chapel Rock! Group Dinner Study Choir Outs	10 8-5 pm Lifeline Screening 1-4 pm Organist Practice 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7 pm Eve Circle	11 7 am Real Estate Breakfast 3-6 pm Organist Practice	12 8:30-3:30 pm Decorative Arts of SW FL 9-12 pm Bell Rehearsal 1-4 pm Organist Practice
Men's Chapel Rock! Group Dinner Study Choir Outs	17 10 am PW Meeting 1-4 pm Organist Practice 5 pm Safe Haven Board 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	18 3-6 pm Organist Practice	19 1-4 pm Organist Practice
Men's Chapel Rock! Group Dinner Study Choir Outs	24 1-4 pm Organist Practice 1-4 pm Dinner Set-Up 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	25 7 am Real Estate Breakfast 3-6 pm Organist Practice <u>Spaghetti Dinner</u> 5:30 pm—8:00 pm	26 Project Linus Make A Difference Day 9 am - 12 pm 1-4 pm Organist Practice
Men's Chapel Rock! Group Dinner Study Choir Outs	31 1-4 pm Organist Practice 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal		

GIN... and other "spiritual" matters,

Christmas itself is over, and we have about a week before the church Christmas season is over. Epiphany is celebrated on Sunday, January 6th this year. What joy, what happiness, what beautiful colors and decorations, what great music, what wonderful worship, what a fantastic story. The season is almost perfect.

When do we start celebrating Christmas each year? I saw my first decorations in stores just after Halloween. Black Friday started on Thursday this year. The problem is that on Dec. 27th there won't be a sign of Christmas and by Jan. 2nd you will begin to see Valentine's decorations and cards in the stores. So for two months we've prepared and celebrated ... and all of a sudden we are finished!

What a shame...surely we should be able to make this season last longer than two months. I know, I know; we try. We make New Year's Resolutions that we will be in a "Christmas Spirit" for the whole year...or at least the next month, week, or tomorrow. We are reminded often during the year---through sermons, Bible studies, music, special offerings, mission projects, and sometimes even the acts of others---that we need to act like "little Christs" much more often.

It is definitely very hard to remember the Christmas season and act accordingly when all those around you have obviously forgotten the joy, happiness, beautiful colors, decorations, music, worship, and specially the story and it's point.

What to do??? Let's see...we could make worship, prayer, Bible study, church programs, etc. a priority. Priority...that means the things mentioned above come **FIRST** in our lives. Whoa, scary thought. Does that mean activities I really like take second place if conflicting with a "church" activity? Hmmmm! Does that mean "holding my tongue" even if I think the person deserves the remark I'd like to make? Hmmmm! Does that mean NOT hitting back if someone hits me first? Hmmmm! Does that mean lending my favorite toy to someone to play with even if I'm afraid they will break it.? Hmmmm! Does that mean forgiving someone for something they said or did even if it really hurts? Hmmmm! AND...Does that mean I should spend more time listening to, rather than talking to God? Wow, what a concept!

What do you think? If we do these things maybe, just maybe, we can make the Christmas season and spirit extend a few more months. Maybe, just maybe we could really begin a movement to get "peace on earth" and "goodwill to all folks"? Why not let's try? Whatta' ya' say?

Ginny Canning

A View From the Pew

Merry Christmas to all of my Brothers and Sisters in Christ! I hope everyone had a great holiday season with family and friends. On December 14, I was visiting my grandmother in the hospital; no worries folks, she's ok. When I looked up at her television to see the horrific events that had unfolded in Newtown Connecticut just hours before. Shortly after the breaking news reports came, the politics of it all. One side says, "TAKE AWAY THE GUNS", while the other side says, "GIVE EVERY ADULT IN THE SCHOOL A GUN, AND IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN!" Well church family, it is my opinion that we don't need all the guns taken out, nor do we need them all put in the hands of those who teach our children. What we need is to get back to basics and put prayer in the hands of every teacher, a Bible in every classroom, and, most importantly, put God back in His rightful place as the Head of every family. It is only then that we will combat evil like we witnessed in Connecticut. We, as a church, are responsible to make this happen.

In closing, I heard a story about a bad church fire the other night. The blaze shot high into the sky and devastated the historic church. A crowd gathered to watch the building as it was being decimated by fire. The firefighters raced around pulling hoses and setting up ladders to try and beat the fire that just continued to burn with great intensity. In the crowd was the pastor of the church. He looked through the rest of the crowd and noticed a former member of the church. "Bill, I haven't seen you around the church in 15 years. What brings you by now?" Bill replied, "Pastor, I came by because I heard what was going on, and this is the first time I've ever seen this church on fire."

Let's not wait for something like this to happen for someone to say our church is finally on fire. Let's light the fire if it's not lit; and if it is lit, then, CLPC, let's stoke it so that we may become an inferno for Christ!

God Bless!

Nate Burley



Life Line Screening's Mobile Health Testing Units Are Coming

Where: Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church

When: Thursday, January 10, 2013



Life Line Screening Lends a *Helping Hand*

Protect your health by finding out your risk of having a stroke by participating in the Life Line Screening event at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church on Thursday, January 10th. Through the use of ultrasound the carotid arteries are checked for the buildup of fatty plaque, which is the leading cause of stroke; the abdominal aorta is checked for an aneurysm; and the legs are checked for peripheral arterial disease.

Life Line Screening has become increasingly aware of the greater demands that facilities like ours are experiencing during these difficult economic times. They have found a way, to not only thank their dedicated host sites & their members, but to also offer a *Helping Hand* in our effort to meet our community's growing outreach requests. We are participating in their new initiative that offers a \$10.00 package discount to our members (friends & family), **PLUS** a matching \$10.00 donation, per participant, to our outreach/activity fund. By being proactive, we not only help protect our own health, but we also help provide additional support for our neighbors in need!

The Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm package for \$139 includes four screenings: carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and atrial fibrillation. To schedule your appointment and to receive this special offer call 800-324-9458 or register online at www.helpinghandsforhealth.com Priority Code HSC 3215. Join in the fight against vascular disease!



Attic
Treasure Sale

CYPRESS LAKE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ATTIC TREASURE SALE

Start to clean out your closets and the garage for articles that we can sell. The trailer will be here the first of January, and it will be open each Saturday during January and February from 9 A.M. to noon, and Sunday during church. We will collect household items, electrical appliances, toys (with all parts), baby items, furniture, jewelry, sporting goods, books, linens, baskets, dishes, and tools. All must be in working order and clean.

**THE SALE WILL TAKE PLACE ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd FROM
7 A.M. TO 1 P.M.**

On November 19th, at the South Ft. Myers Food Pantry, 253 families received a turkey for Thanksgiving. Thank you to all the cheerful volunteers who helped to make this holiday a blessed day for the "growing number of hungry people" here in South Ft. Myers.



Since the Pantry was closed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, a different plan of operation was necessary for those last two Mondays of December. Therefore, a combined-replacement date of operation was held on Friday, December 28th, for all the clients.

Currently, the South Ft. Myers Food Pantry is seeking funds to purchase a much-needed truck to help supply the food for the "growing number of hungry people" that come to the Pantry.

Have a blessed 2013!
Elly Bartoe, Deacon



1st	Susan Lisich		Anne Burley
4th	Connie Hope	18th	Carolyn Hornung
	Robert Sauer		Brett Pappalardo
5th	Ethelyn Garrard	19th	Betty Symes
	Jim Warren	20th	Cammara McQuilkin
6th	Walter Goff	23rd	Elizabeth Schaarschuch
7th	Richard Meacham	25th	Richard Florka
	Ann Sims		James Sharpe
8th	Grace Pollock	26th	Nancy Rose Knoll
	Sharon Werner		Talia Vechazone
9th	John Nance	29th	Audrey Wilson
	Sam McGargle	31st	Mildred Poland
11th	Mildred Kling		
	Gene Witney		
13th	Harold Gerhardt		
14th	Irene Thiessen		
	Carol Howe		
16th	Mackenzie Kiss		
17th	Kay Slusher		
	Pamela Simones		

8th	Robert & Eileen Coe
	Bob & Bari O'Neill
9th	Robert & Bonnie LeSage
13th	William & Barbara Bancroft
16th	Bob & Fran Baughman
27th	Harold & Rachel Carrier
	Robert & Marilyn Sauer

THE PASTOR'S CAT...

Dwight Nelson recently told a true story about the pastor of his church. He had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc.

The kitty would not come down. The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied a rope to his car and pulled it until the tree bent down, he could then reach up and get the kitten.

That's what he did, all the while checking his progress in the car. He then figured if he went just a little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved the car a little further forward, the rope broke.

The tree went 'boing!' and the kitten instantly sailed through the air - out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. No. Nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, 'Lord, I just commit this kitten to your keeping,' and went on about his business.

A few days later he was at the grocery store, and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. This woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, 'Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?'

She replied, 'You won't believe this,' and then told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat, but she kept refusing. Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the Mom finally told her little girl, 'Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it.' She told the pastor, 'I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her.'

Never underestimate the Power of God and His unique sense of humor.

