



The Courier

March
2015

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

Cypress Lake
Presbyterian Church



**Daylight Saving
Time Begins
March 8th**
Remember to
set your clocks
"ahead"
one hour!

Rick Strickland in Concert March 8th



Rick Strickland, Gospel Music Hall of Fame, returns for his 4th year at CLPC. He will be our special Guest at both the 9:30 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. Worship Services at CLPC.

He has a magnificent voice, and he is quite the showman. Please mark your calendars now for March 8th for this wonderful day of song, as we all celebrate Rick Strickland's accomplishments, and give thanks to God for such a great instrument in his voice. There will be a Free Will Offering.

Maundy Thursday Service April 2nd - 6:00 p.m.



There will be a meager meal on this Thursday preceding the Maundy Thursday service. The meal will begin the entire evening of preparation at 6:00 p.m.

Meal will be soup, salad and beverage. A Love Offering will be taken for the meal. You will then be guided to the Sanctuary for the service where the Gloria Choir will present *Upon This Rock!* by Pepper Choplin.



St. Patrick's Dinner

On Sunday, March 15th at 5:30 p.m., we are holding a St. Patrick's Dinner in Fellowship Hall. The meal will be Corned Beef and Cabbage with carrots, potatoes and Irish Soda Bread. Following the meal, there will be entertainment by the Legacy Singers from McGregor Baptist Church.



Dinner will be \$10 for Adults and \$5 for ages 12 and under. Please sign up in the Narthex, and/or the church office for tickets.

YOUTH CAR WASH

Thank you to all who supported the Youth Car Wash February 8th. They had a total of 47 cars and raised \$728.



Proceeds will be going towards a potential Mission Trip for the youth in the summer. Thank you again to all!

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!!

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

Everyone is welcome! We are collecting candy for the Easter Egg Hunt every Sunday during the month of March. There will be a basket labeled "Easter Candy" in the Narthex. All donations are appreciated.



We are what we eat!

There is an adage that says, “We are what we eat.” The point is, we become what our body consumes. Consume too much fat or calories, and we gain weight. Abuse sugar, and we raise the risk of diabetes. Fail to eat a balanced diet, and we can suffer from everything from thyroid diseases to scurvy. And once those diseases hit, it is REALLY hard to fix them!

But the same is also true for us intellectually and spiritually. We become what we study and learn, and once we are set in our ways, it is REALLY hard to fix it!

A number of years ago a rather wise man known as Sir Francis Bacon wrote the following words:

The human understanding when it has once adopted an opinion...draws all things else to support and agree with it. And though there be a greater number and weight of instances to be found on the other side, yet these it either neglects and despises, or else by some distinction sets aside.

Bacon’s point is a bit scholarly but when boiled down to its nuts and bolts it is quite simple. Once a human being believes something, they will do everything they can to prove themselves right, EVEN when presented with a compelling argument that something else is indeed correct and their assumption is wrong. They “become what they eat”...intellectually.

Although a bit dated, a good example would be the Roman Catholic Church, the Pope and Galileo regarding whether the earth or the sun was at the center of our solar system (on in the case of the Roman Church, the universe). Even when Galileo provided irrefutable evidence that the earth revolved around the sun, and not the other way around, people were SO set in their opinions that they refused to change. (They did change their opinion, but it took nearly 350 years!!!)

In our society today things have changed, a LOT! Some for the good. I, for one, am THRILLED that technology allows me to see a picture, or even a video, once a day of my grandson in Pittsburgh...right on the cellphone on my hip! I am thrilled that, through modern medicine, we have been able to prevent or cure hundreds of diseases, nearly obliterating infant and childhood mortality. The list is endless.

But on the other end of the spectrum, unlike when I was a child, the schools no longer teach the Bible (except in comparison to other world religions or to explain a holiday). The 3 foot separation between Laura and Rob’s beds on the Dick Van Dyke show has been replaced with open sexuality, “adult” language, and rather open disrespect for nearly anyone of faith (be they Christian, Jewish or another belief system). The stories of the Bible that were once universally known are now relegated to a choice few. Just consider the fact that when asked who was Noah’s wife, nearly 16% of the US adult population that was surveyed said, “Joan of Arc.”

So what is happening is people outside of the faith are developing their belief systems NOT based on the Bible or scriptural teachings, but by what they see and hear on TV, read on the Internet or Kindle, or learn from their peers at school, work or the neighborhood. Do our children (or us for that matter) spend more time watching *Big Bang Theory* (which is really “adult” content) or *The Bachelor* than they (we) do in prayer, Bible study, worship or in a class on Sunday morning or Wednesday? Who and what is shaping the belief systems of our children, our family, us? And once a belief system is in place, back to Francis Bacon, it is VERY hard to change, even when faced with irrefutable evidence to the contrary.

For us, as Christians, this presents an opportunity as well as a challenge. The Bible, the very Word of God, has withstood the highs and lows of civilization for thousands of years. Why? Because it really does present some timeless truths. And if we can move beyond picking and choosing which verse to quote, and look at the Bible as a whole, we learn that God has a wonderful, supportive, redemptive plan for all of our lives. IF we will only allow His truths into our hearts.

Which brings me to the essential point. If we do not make the regular reading of the Bible, regular worship attendance, regular spiritual growth with a supportive Christian community a part of our life, then someone or something else will fill the void. And the question is, will that someone or something be as reliable and lasting as the Word of God? The answer is obvious!

One of the greatest gifts that we can give our children, our grandchildren, our spouse, our neighbors, ourselves, is the opportunity to know a better way of life.

One that knows forgiveness, that loves others, that does have appropriate boundaries (to keep us from hurting each other and ourselves), and one that serves before being served. That gift BEGINS with following Jesus Christ. But that is only the start, there is more:

Come and worship...it is there we bring our gifts of ourselves to God.

Come and learn...bringing our children of ALL ages to learn. Remember, if we don’t get it right the first time, it is REALLY hard to change an opinion. At CLPC there are Sunday night and Wednesday night opportunities for youth and children, and a WIDE range of opportunities for adults, all week long.

Come and serve...be it through a food pantry, our Spanish worship, taking someone to a doctor’s appointment, visiting an elderly shut-in. For in serving, we find out that WE are the ones that benefit.

But if we avoid worship, avoid Christian study, avoid service, who or what is guiding where we (including our spouses, our children, our grandchildren, or friends) are headed? The one who created the world, or a part of the world that has rejected the Creator? Come, let us worship and grow in knowledge of a loving, caring Lord so that we “May have life and have it abundantly!”

Blessings,

Pastor Clint

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women made a profit of **\$1,094.30** from the Lasagna Dinner on January 30, 2015.

A **BIG THANK YOU** for all of you that worked on the dinner and those who came to the dinner.

A special thanks to Mark Gisse who made the lasagna and dessert.



Church DEACONS

The Deacons of CLPC are ready to visit you if you are hospitalized or spending time in a rehabilitation center gathering strength to come home. The visits may be for a time of prayer, a chat or help with a problem. Please call the church office or Pastor Clint and a deacon will be by to see you.

FLOWER GUILD MARCH, 2015



March 1st	Judy Schulte
March 8th	Sally Fontaine
March 15th	Jean Dodd
March 22nd	Terry Miller
March 29th	Sally Fontaine (Palm Sunday)

Chancel Guild March 2015

6th	Irene Thiessen
13th	Judy Schulte Dorothy Troy
20th	Doris Houston Rebecca Potts
27th	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 Director

Men's Breakfast Fellowship Hall



**Tuesday, March 10th
7:00am**



COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour is held in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday from 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

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.

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. **During March, we will collect small stuffed toys or animals.**

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.



Women's Circles

Martha Circle will meet on March 10th at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Esther Circle will meet on March 10th at 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Eve Circle will meet on March 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive will be **Sunday, March 1st**
8:15-12:45 pm.

Please call Tim Baldwin for an appointment at 937-369-6069.

Give the gift of Life!!



SOUTH FT. MYERS FOOD PANTRY



During March, we will be **collecting dried or canned beans.** There will be a shopping cart in the Narthex for your donations.



Anniversary Celebrations

- 4th *Steven & Wanda Bishop*
 12th *Jake & Dee Hahn*
 15th *Tyler & Jaime Hill*
 22nd *Kirk & Gayla Charles*
 24th *Bill & Barbara Stewart*



Birthday Wishes

- 1st *Beth Anne Watson*
 4th *Tori Masek*
 5th *Bob Hoschner*
 9th *Kayley Bishop Hill*
 10th *Art Carver*
 14th *Tim Baldwin*
 15th *Donald Siemon*
 Dorothy Wilson
 Christina Johnson
 16th *Emily Radcliffe*
 Leanne Logelin
 17th *Pat Hoffman*
 Cindy Carver
 18th *Cameron Peters*
 19th *Charles Hayman*
 Byron J. Lovell
 20th *Donna Kerkesner*
 Joyce Ernst
 21st *Audrey Hayward*
 Savannah McAloose
 Mary Burbach
 26th *Audrey Coe*
 27th *Deborah Wingerson*
 28th *Gregory Bradley*
 29th *Ginny Canning*
 30th *Walt France*
 31st *Gregory Giesecke*

NEW MEMBER CLASS

The next New Member Orientation and Luncheon will be March 8, 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.



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.

Join us each Monday night at 6 p.m. in the Chapel; start with pizza and prayer as we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



WE ARE GOING TO BRANSON, MO.

Join us on November 9th for 6 days and 5 nights. Fly from Fort Myers, have a Motor Coach for the week, 5 nights at Comfort Suites, see 11 shows, 5 breakfasts, 5 dinners, 2 lunches (you have to buy 3 lunches), trip insurance, taxes and gratuities; all for the price (double occupancy) of \$1500 each. We only have 30 airline seats, so the first 30 deposits of \$600 each will be with us. If you want to join us from the North, 4 airlines fly into Springfield, MO. to join us there. We have plenty of room at the motel and shows, but still need a small deposit by March 15th. Please e-mail Jim Wilson, jamesww551@aol.com for more information.

MOVIE AND GAME NIGHT

Movie and Game Night has begun and will continue running through May. We will meet 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 pm. 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.



Presbyterian Women

March 2015



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| 1st | | The Gifts of Women Sunday
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Services to be led by women of the Congregation |
| 2nd | 9:30 am
1:00 pm | Project Linus Blanket Work Day
Executive Board Mtg. (<i>Library/Chapel</i>) |
| 3rd-6th | | Attic Treasure Sale Set-Up
Fellowship Hall 9 a.m.-?? Each day |
| 6th | | World Day of Prayer |
| 7th | 7-1 pm | Attic Treasure Sale |
| 10th | 9:30 am
12:30 pm | Martha Circle (<i>Fellowship Hall</i>)
Esther Circle (<i>Fellowship Hall</i>) |
| 12th | 7:00 pm | Eve Circle (<i>Chapel</i>) |