



# The Courier

May  
2015

Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church

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



## VBS 2015 is Coming!

**Its Time for VBS!!**  
**June 8th - June 12th**  
**5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Children ages 3-5th Grade are welcome to attend. Older children can be Crew Leaders.

Each day children will have a new Bible Buddy, will sing, learn Bible stories, make crafts and play LOTS of games! Adult Bible class will also be offered from 6:45-7:30 p.m.

We will need lots of volunteers to help in all areas. If you would like to help, please contact Jessica Osegueda at 239-481-3233 or [jessica@clpc.us](mailto:jessica@clpc.us). Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex or the Church Office.

Volunteers and Participants may register online for Vacation Bible School using this link:

<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/CLPCVBS2015>

### Joint Session/Deacons Meeting

**Tuesday, June 16th at  
6:00 p.m.**



*The meeting will be held at Pastor Clint's home.*

### Men's Breakfast

**The Men's Breakfast will begin meeting at the Sunflower Café on May 12th at 7:00 a.m.**



**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY, MAY 25TH**



### NEW WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES COMING IN JUNE!



Beginning **Sunday, June 21st** through **July 26th**, we will have two services. The 8:00 a.m.

Prayer Service will continue, and there will be a 10:00 a.m. Combined Service. Coffee Hour will end on June 14, 2014 and return on Sunday, August 2nd.



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 21st** immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service.

**Congregational Meeting**





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**Clerk of Session**  
 Gordon Coffman

**Presbyterian Women Moderator**  
 Sandy Wharton

**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.

## Gin and other spiritual matters.....

It's been almost a month that the following words were heard from the choir during Maundy Thursday's cantata:

*"What is YOUR passion?? What is YOUR call??" "Follow me!  
 If you hear and respond to these words, they will transform all that you are and all you will become."*

Now that Easter's over and the only "church holiday" between now and the Christmas season is Pentecost...will we remember those words? Sometimes I think we go about our days between these "holidays" and forget the enthusiasm and excitement of being a Christian. I'd bet that many of us left church (esp. the 11 o'clock celebration and the Hallelujah Chorus) with our feet barely touching the ground. I know I did!! It's easy to be excited, joyful, enthusiastic and faithful on days like Christmas and Easter. What about the other 363 days?

How about we work on our enthusiasm for those 363 together?! We can "step up to the plate", "pitch in", "help each other out", "participate in church programs", "get to know more people", etc., etc., etc. Does that sound like a good thing? Let's start right away...even though our winter friends will start to return north and some of our activities will wind down for the summer. The easiest thing we can do is to smile, greet people, shake hands, and participate fully in the worship celebration of our choice. Participate fully?...smile, sing, clap, get excited and enthused. Enjoy worship!!!

Someone, no longer worshipping here, told me, "Most of the people at the worship celebrations look like they're here under duress or because it's the thing to do". There's no excitement or enthusiasm." How can we come to worship our Lord, the one who said "Follow me", who died for our sins and who rose so we can have eternal life, and not be excited and thankful???? We've got 238 days left (beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>) until Christmas. Can we change what our worship services and we look like? Maybe if we change that we will change our lives the other six days of the week. Enthusiasm is contagious...let's try spreading it.

Ginny Canning



## ALL-CHURCH RETREAT 2015

It's time to go back to **Cedarkirk**. The All-Church Retreat will be held Fri.-Sun., October 9th-11th, 2015. Families will again be staying in Cedar Lodge and adults without children will be staying in the Retreat House.

This year we are asking for a **non-refundable deposit** from each person or family going. We are also asking that the **remainder of the cost be paid before** the weekend.

We are giving you 5½ months (28 weeks) to plan for the weekend. Hopefully this much notice will be easier on your "family budget" and also enable you to "put us on your calendar "**first**"!!

The rates/deposits are as follows:

	<u>RATES</u>	<u>DEPOSIT</u>
Family	\$348.00	\$ 50.00
Youth (5-12 yrs.)	93.00	20.00
Child (under 5)	free	0.00
Adult (13 and over)	116.00	35.00

(All deposits will be applied to the final bill.)

**All deposits are due NO LATER THAN Monday, June 1, 2015.**  
**Final payment is due Sunday, October 4, 2015.**



**When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.**  
 2 Timothy 4:13(NIV)

Those were the words from Paul to Timothy, don't forget those scrolls and especially the parchments. In modern language, Paul is begging Timothy not to forget his books! Even as Paul was growing older, he still had to study...to learn and grow. By the way, if you read the WAY Paul writes (not just WHAT he writes), it reveals a very learned man. Someone who had spent time understanding not just the Bible (which at that time was ONLY the Old Testament) but also the writings of the Temple priests, Roman law, Greek philosophy and a whole lot more. Paul was a brilliant man who WORKED at growing in his faith AND knowledge!

That leads to a question I often get (and some concerns that I sometimes hear) this time of year. *Why is Pastor Clint going away to study? Didn't he already graduate from seminary and doesn't he have a doctoral degree???* *Why is he gone...again...to study?*

First of all, recall that Jesus frequently took time to go away, often up on a mountaintop, to pray and reflect. He didn't (perhaps couldn't) do this while around others as he simply could not focus. Even Jesus had to have time away. And as we saw above, Paul also greatly valued his books; the ability to study and grow. And for both Jesus and Paul, that helped them help us. That is the model that pastors are encouraged to follow which leads to point two.

Second, in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church the FIRST duty of a pastor is to study (oddly enough preaching, teaching, prayer, etc. come AFTER study). Why? It is very simple. If a pastor does not know the Word of God (and also is unacquainted with the issues and problems of the world around us), then the pastor cannot "feed" others. One of the greatest theologians of the last century, Karl Barth, spoke of the need for a pastor to have a Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other!

Lastly, the time spent away in study is most certainly not vacation. While there may be a restful component (my wife still scratches her head at how I can find reading a theological textbook on the beach restful), it is very much work and study.

Once a year I participate in a seminar that is held by the Foundation for Reformed Theology (I actually have led the Pittsburgh seminar for many, many years...feel free to Google the group to learn more). Over the years we have studied topics like: Predestination, Eternal Life, Preaching, John Calvin, Augustine, the Apostles and Nicene Creed, Karl Barth, and more. Each year brings 1,500 – 5,000 pages of scholarly reading followed by a week of dialogue with a small group on what was read. We also have a guest professor visit us each week, usually on the issue we are engaged with.

This year the group picked perhaps the simplest yet most challenging reading of them all, the Bible! Yes, we are reading the Bible (in full) but in addition we are reading a number of other texts such as *Biblical Theology in Exodus* (talking about reading the Bible as a WHOLE, not just in part), *A Preface to Bible Study* by Alan Richardson, *The Bible Today* by Dodd, *The Bible in Scottish Life and Literature* by Wright, and *William Tyndale, A Biography* by Daniell. These are scholarly texts that are designed to stretch our knowledge and understanding while we read the Bible, cover to cover.

But is this just for pastors? Perhaps most folks don't want to read quite THAT much in 4 weeks, but the point is most valuable. No matter what our age, no matter how many Sundays we have been in worship, no matter how many Bible studies we have attended, no matter how many times we have read the Bible, there is always more that we can learn about God and God's word. That is why Christian Education and "Disciplemaking" is really important. We can always grow in the Lord.

So this next month when I am gone for a week (up at the Montreat Conference center) please say a prayer for your pastor and for the other 4 or 5 other pastors that will join me. But I also invite you to go a little deeper yourself...as we all grow to know Jesus better.

Have a wonderful May and thank you for being a follower of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Clint



## Chancel Guild

### *May 2015 Schedule*

- 1st** Irene Thiessen  
Gale Wray
- 8th** Judy Schulte  
Dorothy Troy
- 15th** Doris Houston  
Rebecca Potts
- 22nd** Sue Chanofsky  
Betty Schaarschuch
- 29th** Irene Thiessen  
Gale Wray

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

**Irene Thiessen,  
Chancel Guild Dir.**



# Anniversary Celebrations

- 5<sup>th</sup> Pete & Judy Thomas
- 6<sup>th</sup> Lowell & Pat Hoffman
- 9<sup>th</sup> George & Beverly Westacott
- 16<sup>th</sup> Harold & Kay Slusher
- 17<sup>th</sup> Bob & Judy Hoschner  
Paul & Rose Mungoli
- 21<sup>st</sup> William & Mary Conner
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Rich & Sherri Badalaty
- 30<sup>th</sup> Robert & Mae Osborne

# Birthday Wishes

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Flora Jones        | 16 <sup>th</sup> Harold Hayward   |
| Steve Norris                       | James Brady                       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Janet Serpe        | 17 <sup>th</sup> Dave Moore       |
| Alex Kiss                          | Don Brose                         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Carol Sarosik      | 18 <sup>th</sup> Steve Brown      |
| Carolyn Brose                      | Daniela Valmer                    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Caulette Logelin   | Hagard Bradley                    |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Jeannette Scullion | 19 <sup>th</sup> Marcia Bruns     |
| Brian Granstra                     | Bari O'Neill                      |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Philip Serpe       | 20 <sup>th</sup> Gavin Dougherty  |
| Amy Barra                          | 21 <sup>st</sup> Jackie Oestriech |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Jeanne Gaub       | 24 <sup>th</sup> Devin Masek      |
| Ken Kendall                        | 28 <sup>th</sup> Nan Read         |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Hawley Botchford  | Kurt Daume                        |
| Mark Gisse                         |                                   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Dottie Reed       |                                   |
| Judy Norris                        |                                   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Harold Slusher    |                                   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Al Gavenda        |                                   |
| Kurt Daume                         |                                   |



For the last several years we have met once a month at the local Chick fil A for a "Spirit Night" where the owners of the restaurant donated a portion of the night's proceeds to the church.

Over the years this has literally meant many thousands of dollars for CLPC and we are most grateful. However, in recent months our attendance has declined while at the same time the restaurant chain is making some changes to the way they use coupons (from the "wheel" that many of us have spun). So, as with the lifespan of most anything, our Chick fil A Spirit Night ended this April. We remain grateful for the support of Chick fil A and to Steve and Wanda Bishop (managers) for their support of CLPC!



**Martha Circle** will meet on May 12th at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

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

**Eve Circle** will meet on May 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.



There are many openings for pulpit and lectern flowers for Sunday Worship. Please help to fill this need so we may continue to have a supply of flowers for our members and friends who are shut-ins, or in hospitals, retirement homes, and rehabilitation centers. Thank you for your support. Flowers are still \$25.00  
Worship Ministry Team



## Presbyterian Women

### May 2015

- |      |           |  |
|------|-----------|--|
| 4th  | 9:30P.M.  | Project Linus Blanket (CE1-Rms. 2&3)     |
|      | 1:00P.M.  | Executive Board Meeting (Chapel/Library) |
| 12th | 9:30A.M.  | Martha Circle (Fellowship Hall)          |
|      | 12:30P.M. | Esther Circle (Fellowship Hall)          |
| 14th | 7:00 P.M. | Eve Circle (CH)                          |

### FLOWER GUILD

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| May 3rd                 | Judy Schulte   |
| May 10th (Mothers Day)  | Jean Dodd      |
| May 17th                | Terry Miller   |
| May 24th (Memorial Day) | Sally Fontaine |
| May 31st                | Judy Schulte   |

