



# The Courier

May  
2018

Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church

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

## VBS 2018 is Coming!

June 11th - June 15th  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



This event is completely free to the children in the community.

Kids who are ages 4– 5th grade are welcome.

**GAMES –SINGING, FOOD,  
PUPPETS - BIBLE ADVENTURES,  
CRAFTS!!**

We need all hands on deck for this event. Starting in April, we will be having scheduled days to organize, craft and get it all together!!! Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Amy with any questions:

[AmyC@clpc.us](mailto:AmyC@clpc.us) or 239-481-3233.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 17** immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service.

**Congregational Meeting**



The Youth Group would like to say a great big **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to our Mission Trip. There are five kids and two adults traveling the week of July 8th. Please pray for us and the people we are helping. We will be excited to share our experiences with the congregation! Thanks again!



YOUTH GROUP

Amy Cottrell  
Director of Disciplemaking



**THE CHURCH OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MEMORIAL DAY  
MONDAY, MAY 28TH**



### Summer Worship Schedule for CLPC 2018

There will be one service of Celebration on May 27<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day weekend at 10:00 AM

Beginning June 3rd through September 2, 2018 we will hold one worship service in English

**10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration in the Sanctuary**

**10:00 a.m. Spanish Worship**

### Joint Session/Deacons Meeting Tuesday, June 19th at

**6:00 p.m.**



**SESSION  
MEETING**

*The meeting will be held at the church.*



## The Courier

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](mailto:mail@clpc.us)  
Web site: [www.clpc.us](http://www.clpc.us)

### Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Clinton C. Cottrell  
[clint@clpc.us](mailto:clint@clpc.us)

### Pastor

The Rev. Miguel Estrada  
[Miguel@clpc.us](mailto:Miguel@clpc.us)

### Director of Traditional Worship

Rachel Carrier  
[rachel@clpc.us](mailto:rachel@clpc.us)

### Director of Praise Worship

Amy Maneval  
[amy@clpc.us](mailto:amy@clpc.us)

### Director of Disciplemaking

Amy Cottrell  
[amyc@clpc.us](mailto:amyc@clpc.us)

### Office Manager

Karen May  
[karen@clpc.us](mailto:karen@clpc.us)

### Clerk of Session

Gordon Coffman

### Presbyterian Women Moderator

Mary Gisse

### Moderator of the Deacons

Pam Smith

### 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.

*But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5:16*



*When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. 2 Timothy 4:13*

Throughout the Gospel there was a recurring theme with Jesus, he took time to get away and pray. Luke actually says that Jesus did this "often." There is also a recurring theme with Jesus in that before or after nearly every major event, Jesus took time to rest and/or pray. Just consider the miracle when Jesus fed the 5,000. What did he do next? He went up to a mountainside to pray, alone and away from the crowds, his disciples and his public work.

Even Paul found time to pray and to study. In writing to Timothy, Paul makes only 3 requests of things to bring. First of all was a coat that he left behind (hmmm, makes me feel a little better knowing that even PAUL could forget his coat). But notice what the next two are! His books and the parchments. Why? Because these were what he read and studied. They were deeply meaningful to him and to his ministry, and ultimately to each and every one of us as through his knowledge and faith. He passed on the faith to the Gentiles (which is almost all of us).

Within the Reformed church (which includes the Presbyterian church) we have always valued the need for an educated and prayerful clergy. Unlike most non-denominational and Baptist churches (as well as other denominations), Presbyterian pastors are REQUIRED to have substantial collegiate education, background checks, psychological screenings and practical training. But that is NOT where it ends, pastors are required to be given study leave each year and actually are required to report to the Presbytery how that training is used. Pastors are also allowed to accrue time so that there can be a concentrated period of study.

Finally, within the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (the Book of Order), the duties and responsibilities of a pastor are clearly identified (G-2.0504). Often, folks come up with their own ideas of what the primary roles of a pastor are, but this is what the rule book of the church says...they are responsible for:

studying, teaching, and preaching the Word, for celebrating Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and for praying...with the ruling elders, they are to encourage people in the worship and service of God; to equip and enable them for their tasks within the church and their mission in the world; to exercise pastoral care, devoting special attention to the poor, the sick, the troubled, and the dying; to participate in governing responsibilities, including leadership of the congregation in implementing the principles of participation and inclusiveness in the decision-making life of the congregation, and its task of reaching out in concern and service to the life of the human community as a whole. With the deacons they are to share in the ministries of compassion, witness, and service. In addition to these pastoral duties, they are responsible for sharing in the ministry of the church in councils higher than the session and in ecumenical relationships.

Notice what the FIRST responsibility of a pastor is: "Study." Over the years, while serving you, I have taken that role most seriously. Nearly 10 years ago, after many classes and a dissertation, I completed my doctoral education. Nearly every year I have participated in a seminar with the Foundation of Reformed Theology. But there is still more work and study that needs to be done. A lot has changed in the world since I came here in 2005, MOST of our neighborhood no longer is considered Christian. A lot has changed in our church since that time (nearly 70% of our members were not here 13 years ago, there was no food pantry, there was no after school program, the fellowship hall was half its size, there were some serious staff and financial issues...and I was 13 years younger). A lot has changed.

This coming summer I am combining vacation with accrued study leave. I do plan to use the vacation to the utmost, finding rest and spending much valued time with Amy, not to mention my children and grandchildren. But I am also going to be using a substantial amount of study leave that I have accrued over the years (instead of a "sabbatical"). Prayerfully, I will follow the lead of Jesus and Paul, using that time for spiritual rest, for prayer and for study.

A large portion of that study time will be used on two major components. The first being reading and studying on how God is at work in the world in which we live today and how we can be more effective in reaching others with Christ. The second component will be an in-depth guided study on how I can be effective as your pastor in the coming years.

It doesn't take a trained observer to see that I look a lot different than I did when I came here 13 years ago (a major give-away is brown hair then versus grey hair now...at least there is still hair left). And as I mature (in the kind words of our Clerk of Session), my question for my final work years is simple: what does God want from me and how can I be effective as your pastor? To that end I am working with a mentor who will be leading me through a period of guided study on how I can be more effective as pastor. And while retirement is still a ways away, the mentor will also work with helping me map out a strategy on how I can NOT slow down, but remain healthy, vibrant and effective until my full-time work ends.

While I am away there will be a number of incredibly talented people preaching be they members of our church or guest preachers. I will also break up the time I am away, being here in early June as we have VBS and our annual meeting. And while I will be out of town some of the time, much of the time I will be in town (using local libraries) and available in the event of a serious illness or God forbid, someone passing away.

Please say a prayer that I may use this time well and that I may come back both refreshed and with a personal plan for the years ahead to be effective as your pastor and in service to our Lord.

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Clint*



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



## Anniversary Celebrations

- 5<sup>th</sup> Pete & Judy Thomas  
Marty & Bette Serra  
6<sup>th</sup> Lowell & Pat Hoffman  
9<sup>th</sup> George & Beverly Westacott  
14<sup>th</sup> Wayne & Pennie Everhart  
16<sup>th</sup> Harold & Kay Slusher  
17<sup>th</sup> Bob & Judy Hoschner  
30<sup>th</sup> Robert & Mae Osborne  
31<sup>st</sup> Phillip & Cean Cartwright



## Birthday Wishes

- 1<sup>st</sup> Steve Norris  
2<sup>nd</sup> Janet Serpe  
Alex Kiss  
3<sup>rd</sup> Carol Sarosik  
Carolyn Brose  
5<sup>th</sup> Whitney Pope  
7<sup>th</sup> Jeannette Scullion  
Brian Granstra  
Cean Cartwright  
8<sup>th</sup> Philip Serpe  
Amy Maneval  
9<sup>th</sup> Monica Tovar  
10<sup>th</sup> Jeanne Gaub  
Ken Kendall  
11<sup>th</sup> Hawley Botchford  
Mark Gisse  
12<sup>th</sup> Judy Norris  
13<sup>th</sup> Leidys Martin  
14<sup>th</sup> Harold Slusher  
16<sup>th</sup> Harold Hayward  
17<sup>th</sup> Don Brose  
Dave Moore  
18<sup>th</sup> Steve Brown  
Hagard Bradley  
19<sup>th</sup> Bari O'Neill  
Marcia Bruns  
20<sup>th</sup> Gavin Dougherty  
27<sup>th</sup> Chris Pope  
28<sup>th</sup> Kurt Daume  
Nan Read  
31<sup>st</sup> Phillip Cartwright



## Presbyterian Women

### Thank you:

To all who attended our Annual Gathering and showered your gifts to Healthy Start. This is yet another great mission we support only because of your generous giving.



### Bible Study:

Who is Jesus? – Lesson 9 - Our last meeting for this Bible Study will be held on May 8, 2018. Meet us in the **Chapel** at 10:00am.

### Knit One, Pray Too:

Please join us on Thursday afternoons from 12:30pm-2:30pm in rooms 2&3. We are an informal group of women that love to knit, crochet, do needlepoint & cross-stitch; or want to learn. See Matilda Wilson or Garlet Grenz for details.



The fiscal year is coming to an end of what has been a very successful year for the Deacons.

Hospital, homebound and rehabilitation visitation team members have been busy visiting members. Flowers were also regularly delivered to these members. The congregation continues to respond generously giving clothing to the Clothes Closet. Our "KISSES FOR KASH" fundraiser was a success with \$520.08 raised for the purchase of new underwear and children's shoes.

Several Deacons will be rotating to the inactive list and a new group will be installed soon. Your Deaconate is alive and well!!

Pam Smith  
Moderator

In October of last year, the Session of CLPC was honored to receive a letter from First Presbyterian Church of Ramsey, New Jersey, a church we have absolutely no connection to, writing to inform us that they had chosen to pray for our church for a month and would carry any specific needs we had to Christ in prayer, along with our congregation. As this came right after Hurricane Irma, the gesture of kindness and Christian love inspired us. Now, as we work into the 2018 year, the Church and Community Ministry Team has developed a program where CLPC chooses a different church each month to lift up in prayer.

For our inaugural month of March, we prayed for Parkridge Church in Coral Springs, a congregation who counts among its members many students and faculty at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. As our letter to inform Parkridge that we would be praying for them came less than a few weeks after the tragedy at Stoneman Douglas High, their church certainly needed our prayers. Their Senior Pastor returned an email to Pastor Clint thanking us for our prayers and asking us to pray for God's intervention and wisdom in their community. It was quite significant to us that this rather large church (with multiple campuses) had time to personally respond, thanking us for our letter! This helped show us the true importance of this ministry, and the importance of extending our arm of love and prayer to churches across the nation. We continued in April with Berachah Church in Delaware, Ohio, a small congregation which opened in August after years of planning, where the associate pastor is a graduate of the Kairos Prison Ministry program, having been mentored by Steve Norris, a Ruling Elder at CLPC.

We truly have been blessed to hear about what's been happening in these congregations, and we look forward to continuing this ministry! If you have a church you think would be a good fit for our mission, send me an email at [agures2014@gmail.com](mailto:agures2014@gmail.com)! Additionally, thank you for your continued prayers for these churches – just as others did the same for us, may we send Christ's love to those who truly need it.

In Christ's Love,  
**Carson Brown**  
Ruling Elder  
Church and Community Ministry Team



### Chancel Guild

#### *May 2018 Schedule*

- 1st* Judy Schulte  
Dorothy Troy
- 8th* Judy Schulte  
Dorothy Troy
- 15th* Sharon & Richard Werner
- 22nd* Sue & Marty Chanofsky
- 29th* Sue & Marty Chanofsky

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

**Sue Chanofsky**  
**Chancel Guild Dir.**

### CLOTHES CLOSET NEWS



THANK YOU EVERYONE who participated in 'KISSES FOR KASH'! The initial grand total donated was \$498.05. There has been at least another \$20 given since the campaign ended. The monies were given to the Clothes Closet and will be used for new underwear and children's shoes.

A gentle reminder: please donate only gently used clothing. Household items are not handled by the Clothes Closet. I'm sure the Salvation Army or other agency could make very good use of your items.

Pam Smith

## Your 2018 Church Officer Nominations

Every year, a committee representing the whole congregation meets to prayerfully discern and nominate the people God has called to serve as officers of our church. This year, the committee was composed of Carson Brown, from the Session, as well as Marietta Meacham and Steve Norris from the congregation, as well as Pastor Clint ex-officio. Our **Elders** are responsible for the administration of our church, providing for the Lord's Supper, and making critical decisions about the present and future of our church. Our **Deacons** act as the pastoral care arm, delivering flowers to our homebound and hospitalized, as well as working to spread the love of Christ to those who cannot be in the pews on Sunday morning. Each year, we ask for God's wisdom in finding the people who will serve in these roles. This January, the Church Officer Nominating Committee began its work in prayer. Five months later, we feel that prayer has paid off, and that God has led us to a slate of highly qualified and passionate, devoted stewards of Christ. The following have been formally nominated and will come before your consideration at our congregational meeting in June. Next to each name, you'll see a service time where you can usually find them worshipping. Take a moment sometime before the meeting to stop them and say hello and get to know the folks who will be leading CLPC!

### **Nominees to serve as Ruling Elders on Session (two year term, 2018-2020)**

Terri Bergmann (continuing) – 9:30 AM  
Joyce Botchford (continuing) – 11:00 AM  
Rick Gow (continuing) – 8:00 AM  
Wanda Bishop – 9:30 AM  
Elena Garcia – 10:00 AM Iglesia  
Alberto Gomez – 10:00 AM Iglesia  
Bob Hoschner – 8:00 AM  
Amanda Johnson – 9:30 AM

### **Nominees to serve as Deacons on Board of Deacons (three year term, 2018-2021)**

Ana Agama (continuing) – 10:00 AM Iglesia  
Ginny Canning – 11:00 AM  
Marifrans Estrada – 10:00 AM Iglesia  
Judy Hoschner – 8:00 AM  
Paola Rivera – 10:00 AM Iglesia

### **Nominees to serve on the next Church Officer Nominating Committee (one year term, 2018-2019)**

Joyce Botchford, Active Ruling Elder – 11:00 AM  
Mike Scullion – 8:00 AM  
Beth Watson – 9:30 AM

It has been an incredible honor for the nominating committee to speak with so many members of CLPC and to work as a team to develop a slate of candidates who will continue to lead this body of Christ dutifully and faithfully, moving forward as we strive to continue our work both inside of our church and to the church around us in Lee County and beyond. This slate not only includes a large group of members from our Spanish ministry, but also another young person nominated to serve on Session and a tremendous amount of diversity in age, gender, worship service, and missional involvement. Thank you to those of you who prayed for God's wisdom in determining this list of candidates, and please continue, as always, to keep the Session, Deacons, and all officers and leaders of the church in your prayers as they continue to work to ensure that CLPC remains the place where you *experience* Christ, in everything we say and do.

Many blessings today and for the year ahead,  
Carson S. Brown  
Chair and Ruling Elder, Church Officer Nominating Committee



April 2018

Beloved in Jesus Christ,  
Easter Greetings from Rwanda

As the Christian world celebrates the power of the resurrection, we in the churches in Rwanda are trusting God for that resurrection power in a very specific way this year. The Rwandan government has closed more than 1,500 worship centers in Rwanda because they have determined the buildings to be unsafe or unhealthy. Over 2,000 more have been given a time limit of 3 weeks to 3 months to correct imperfections in buildings or they will be closed. This impacts all denominations in the country. For a country the size of the state of Maryland, this is significant, For instance, in Gitarama Presbytery, the one of which I am a part, of the 93 worship centers (39 churches and 54 chapels – a satellite worship center of the main church), 10 churches and 26 chapels have been closed and the remaining 29 churches and 25 of the chapels have required renovations to make or they will be closed. These renovations range from replacing windows and doors to putting on new roofs, improving rest rooms, fencing property, providing rain harvesting cisterns and paving dirt floors.

In the Mugombwa sector, about 12 kilometers from Huye where I live, all the Protestant churches in the sector have been closed. Everyone in the sector must travel to Huye to worship until their worship centers can reopen. The Presbyterian chapel there is a small one, only 36 members. Before they can reopen, they are required to build a church building rather than renting a space, as they have been doing. Easter Sunday, with help from our English chapel, which is not closed. they have hired two mini



*Mugombwa sector, where all the Protestant churches have been closed*



*Me preaching last year in Mugombwa's rented worship*

-buses to carry the congregation to the main church in Huye so that they can at least worship together on Easter. We at the English chapel have been partnering with them in a number of ways in the last year and are delighted to assist them in this way, but it is only for one Sunday. The long-term need of a new building is at least a year in the future. In the meantime, they are not allowed to meet as a congregation. They must do their fundraising and their building without gathering together as a congregation. This is just one of over 1,500 worship spaces in this situation.

The amazing thing, to me, is that these folks are not discouraged. They have accepted the government's orders and are working to meet the demands. There is no grumbling. They are moving on in the faith that God has a plan for them and he will bring about that plan in his time and in his way. They are working in that faith. They believe in the resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead is the same power that will enable them to rise to the challenge of building and reopening their congregation.

As you celebrate this Easter season, I invite you to remember the Christians in Rwanda who will not be worshipping in their sanctuaries this year. Pray for Christ's resurrection power to enable them to renovate and reopen those spaces to the glory of God. Pray for the resources necessary to do the necessary renovations in each location. As you pray for us, I pray that you will be drawn closer to Christ and experience his resurrection power in your own lives.

Yours in Christ's power,  
Kay (Cathie to the family)



**COFFEE HOUR**

Coffee hour is held in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday from 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Stop over and join the fellowship!

**FLOWER GUILD**

May 6th	Carolyn Hornung (Youth Sunday)
May 13th	Judy Schulte (Mothers Day)
May 20st	Terry Miller
May 27th	Sally Fontaine



# Salerno Update

26th March 2018



## **PRAYER AND PRAISE FROM SALERNO**

It was an exciting week with the team of 25 students from University of Mississippi! As we all stepped out in boldness to share our faith, students responded. We met more students who were interested in knowing about Jesus, and it overwhelmed me to tears.

### **Story time:**

Pier Paolo one of those students was so curious. He has not been shy about asking questions, and he came to English church, the Bible study on campus and Church on Sunday. He is truly seeking to want to understand who Jesus is for himself.

### **Please Pray:**

- The Gospel seeds that were sewn would grow deep, and that God would continue to work in the hearts of so many other students.
- For the follow up meetings with the students whom we met, and that we would learn more about each other, and share the Gospel.
- For Pier Paolo as he searches to know Jesus himself. That God would open his eyes and heart, and that God's truth in the Bible would change him.

Last week we started our English and Italian Bible studies! We are using a study called Uncover Luke, which is geared for those seeking to know more about Jesus. We had a total of 4 students at the English study and 7 at the Italian study.

### **Story time:**

Michael, a believer from Ghana, was so thankful and encouraged to have the Bible study. He stated to me with a huge smile on his face that "he needed this, and it had been very hard from him to read his Bible since coming to Italy".

Federica, a philosophy major and a strong atheist whom we met through English club came to the Italian Bible study, and really enjoyed it. She participated and had great questions.

Ernesto came to Bible study!!! Through a conversation with one of the team leaders, we found out that he had been asking friends to Please Pray:

- For the open hearts of those who are coming to Bible study.
- Nothing would stop them from coming.
- That the Holy Spirit would guide our team in leading these Bible studies.
- God would add more students who are searching for Hope, and a relationship with God; read the Bible with him, but none of them would. That team leader invited him to Bible study and he came!

Our second team arrived yesterday from Mosaic Church in Orlando, Fl. And they will be helping us at the University campus this week. We are going to have another big English game called the Challenge Dash, which will allow team members to meet students and spend fun quality time together. We will also be holding a Music night on Good Friday, using musicians from Orlando to sing worship songs at the local pub in Salerno.

### **Please pray:**

- That the Holy Spirit would guide the team this week, and that they would be able to meet the students who are truly seeking to know Jesus, and who need hope.
- That God would provide great conversations that would lead to more students being open to having a different view of Jesus.
- Students would see the events of Easter not as a tradition, but as the greatest act & loving sacrifice made for them.

Please pray for these students who are coming to our Bible Studies: Pier Paolo, Federica, Stefano, Fabio, Alejo, Priscilla, Justine, Ernesto, Andrea