



The Courier

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

Cypress Lake
Presbyterian Church

November
2017

Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday November 19th 5:30 PM-Fellowship Hall

Please come and join the church family as we celebrate Thanksgiving. Our chefs will again prepare a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and beverages.

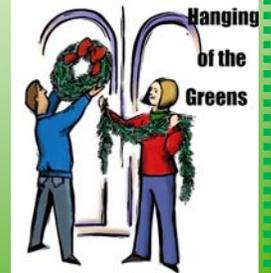
They are asking that you help with the meal by preparing a dish to bring and share. Desserts, salads, and sides will be pot-luck.

Names that begin with A-G may bring a side dish; H-P may bring a dessert and Q-Z, can bring a salad. It should be a wonderful feast to celebrate our freedoms, unity and diversity!



Turkey
DINNER

On November 26th, following the 11:00 a.m. service, we begin our *Hanging of the Greens* in the Sanctuary. Help is greatly needed as we have many trees to decorate and a Sanctuary to transform into Advent. Call Brian Granstra 239-980-5503 to volunteer.



November 5th
Set your clocks back!!



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY:

We are creating a new church family pictorial directory. The first sittings will be November 8th-

10th, 2pm - 8pm. November 11th, 10am-4pm. Sign up in the Narthex. We are in need of people to help with sign-up for both English and Spanish. Must be computer literate and have time available. Contact Chris Giesecke at 239-850-4927.



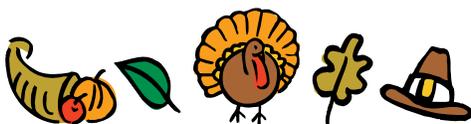
WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS OF CLPC

Keith Schneider
4299 Island Circle
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239-275-9199
ktsfamily@live.com

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SO MANY BLESSINGS

NEWS LETTER

The Courier

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Pastor

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Amy Cottrell
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Karen May
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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.



SAVE THE DATE!!

Children's Christmas Musical
December 17th
9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
CLPC Sanctuary
"Scrooge In Bethlehem"

"Angels Rock!" (children's choir)

Please encourage your "Angel" to
come on Wednesday 5:20-6:00 p.m. to
join in the singing.



FAMILY RETREAT: The CLPC
Family Retreat will be March 9th-11th,
2018 at Cedarkirk's Cedar Lodge.
Please sign up in the Narthex. A \$50
deposit for a group of four is due by
November 2nd. Meals and lodging are
included; bring your own linen.



Blood Drive!

The Lee Memorial Bloodmobile is
coming on Sunday, November 5th
from 8:45-12:45 p.m.

Please call Tim Baldwin at 937-369-6069 to
set up your time to donate and help save a life!

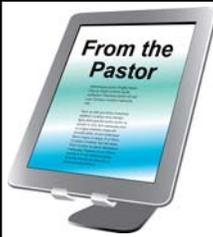


COFFEE HOUR

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!



November



Five hundred years ago on October 31 a priest launched a discussion that would change a religion, would build (and destroy) governments, would revitalize the church and would have reverberations that are still felt to this very day. Martin Luther did NOT start out seeking a reformation or division in any way, shape or form. He simply wanted to generate a discussion about salvation, forgiveness, justification, the power of the pope and the role of the Western church (the Eastern church had long ago severed relations with the Roman Catholic church of the “West”). But what happened was, Luther unleashed a fire storm across the continent and even the world.

Luther would be brought up not just on legal charges within the church, but within the government as well. In his famous trial at the Diet of Worms he was cornered and refused to recant not only his beliefs but even ASKING the questions! His famous last line at the trial was, “I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.” He would then be whisked off by friends and go into hiding for over a year as there was a death warrant on his head.

It is hard today to understand the context of what was happening at the time as it is so foreign from today:

The Pope was indeed the head of the church and THE final authority. Throughout a LOT of Europe the Roman Catholic church owned a LOT of property and forced peasants to pay them rent or to work as servants in what was a feudal society. Furthermore, they were using non-biblical selling of indulgences to finance the building of St. Peter’s and more.

Despite there being kings and queens, there was a Holy Roman Emperor who was, in essence, over all of the monarchy (only reporting to the Pope). Charles would become the king of Spain, the Romans, Italy and Lord of the Netherlands. He had a thirst for power and didn’t put up with anyone challenging him! He was NOT a fan of Luther and presided at Luther’s trial.

To make it messier, Charles V was the nephew of Catherine of Aragon (first wife of Henry VIII in England) who Henry would divorce. Even messier, Catherine of Aragon was the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. LOTS of connections!

Add to this, there was a reformation brewing in Switzerland, France, Scotland and arguably, England and Wales.

Suffice it to say, it was MESS and the people in power wanted to keep their power, at all costs. Yet Luther (and soon Zwingli, Calvin, Cranmer, Knox and others) were willing to literally put their careers, affluence and lives on the line for the faith that we have today. And indeed, many a reformer would lose their life.

But what were the essential tenants that people were willing to die for:

Solo Scriptura, Solo Christus, Solo Fide - Scripture Alone, Christ Alone, Faith Alone

The Bible alone is the Word of God. Nothing that a human says can match or undo that, even the words of a pope, a council, a general assembly, or our traditions.

Jesus alone is the way to salvation, no one else brings salvation.

Faith in Jesus is the only way to a Christian life now and in eternity. We cannot “earn” or “buy” our way into heaven (nor can we earn or buy it for someone else).

Over the years many, many people have tried to attack those fundamental tenants. Some are still trying to do so today. But what defined the Protestant reformation were these 3 fundamentals.

In the Presbyterian tradition we have another saying, *ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei* – Reformed and always reforming, in accordance to the Word of God. For us as Presbyterians, we are called to constantly look at what God wants for our lives and for our church. What does God want us to do at home or work in this age of the Internet and smart phones? What does God want our church to do today in the face of an increasingly non-Christian culture?

But there is something that is often missed...”in accordance to the Word of God.” Which brings us back to the Reformation and arguably back to the birth of the Christian church. What is “God’s” word to us today, in the world in which we live? Not the word of the government, Hollywood moguls, or college professors, but the word of God. Remember Luther? Scripture alone! Christ alone! Faith alone!

As you celebrate Reformation Day with our Kirkin of the Tartan enjoy the pomp and circumstance. Enjoy the music and drone of the bagpipes. But please remember what it is all about, and that many, many people died so that we may have this gift.

Scripture Alone

Christ Alone

Faith Alone

Words that still ring true and timeless.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Clint



Presbyterian Women

Save the Date!

Christmas Bazaar:

All are welcome to come shop our Christmas Bazaar on November 11, 2017. The vendors have unique gifts for everyone on your shopping list this Christmas.

Knit One, Pray Too:

Please join us on Thursday afternoons from 1pm-3pm in rooms 2&3. We are an informal group of women that love to knit, crochet, do needlepoint & cross-stitch; or want to learn. Bring your projects that need to be completed or start one of our many patterns. We will be crafting prayer shawls, afghans, lap robes, making christmons, etc. for friends, family, CLPC members and for the missions we support here in Lee Co. See Pam Smith or Mary Gisse for details.

Women's Bible Studies:

"Who is Jesus" This Bible study will be held on Tuesday, November 14th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00am and in the Library at 7:00pm.

"Cloud of Witnesses" This Bible study will be held on Thursday, November 16th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00am.

Presbyterian Women's Gathering:

The Sweet Adaline's will sing Christmas songs for us on December 9th, beginning 10:30am. Lunch will be served. This event is sure to put us in the Christmas spirit. All women are welcome!

CLOTHES CLOSET ALLIANCE



Fall is here! Time to sort and clean your closets. That's what my mother always told me!

Donations of gently used clothing (men's, women's, children's), shoes, purses, and accessories are welcomed as well as needed.

Please bring donations to the basket in the Narthex on Sundays or bring to the church office during the week. Our neighbors in need are so appreciative of your generosity.



Thank you many times over for all your prayers, packing help and help on moving day! God does answer prayer. I was in need and he provided abundantly through my CLPC family.

Blessings, Ginny Canning



NOVEMBER



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5th Pat France
- 8th Eleanor Goff
Beth Haidet
Ayelen Tovar
- 11th Robert McFedries
- 13th John Ernst
- 14th Eileen Coe
Tom Gralton
- 18th Chris Giesecke
Carolyn Scullion
- 19th Gina Ahluwalia
- 21th Barbara Hess
Dorothy Lias
- 22th Becky Harris
Garry Keil
- 23th Donna Brown
Christian Cottrell
Wayne Auman
- 24th Jeff Basler
- 28th Al Hornung
- 29th Jim Miller

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

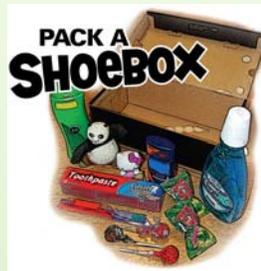
- 5th Michael & Carolyn Hornung
- 7th Larry & Darlene Harshbarger
- 14th Larry & Christina Johnson
- 15th James & Kathy Huffman
- 19th Carlos & Milagros Vasquez
- 20th Martin & Susan Chanofsky
- 21st Harry & Becky Limons
- 22nd Ron & Betsy Howlett
- 29th Wayne & Elaine Auman



FLOWER GUILD NOVEMBER 2017



- November 5th Terry Miller
- November 12th Sally Fontaine
- November 19th Carolyn Hornung
- November 26nd Judy Schulte



Operation Christmas Child

The Children are Special to God

Whether they are refugees of a civil war, survivors of a natural disaster, or victims of extreme poverty, the children of this world need to know that they are special to God. Take on

ordinary shoe box, fill it with toys and other presents, and you have an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope. Most of all, these shoe boxes provide wonderful opportunities to tell children and their families about the greatest gift of all—Jesus Christ. CLPC invites you to be a part of this mission ministry this year. Share in the joy by adding your shoe box gifts to the millions of boxes delivered all over the world. If you would like to make a box (or several), start by picking up a pamphlet in the narthex or in the church office. Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child--toys, school supplies, hygiene items. **{Remember: NO glass, NO liquids (including shampoo and bath gel), NO TOOTHPASTE, NO CANDY, NO war related items.}**

This is a great project to share with your children or grandchildren. It's also a wonderful ministry to share with your neighborhood group or card club. Boxes are to be dropped off at church the week of Nov 12-19. You'll make a difference in a child's life.

Chancel Guild



November 2017 Schedule

- 5th Judy Schulte 12th Judy Schulte
Dorothy Troy Dorothy Troy
- 19th Sue & Marty Chanofsky
- 26th Sue & Marty Chanofsky



Stuffed
Animal
Drive

Stuffed Animals for Christmas!

Gloria Choir is once again sponsoring the collection of **new** stuffed animals that can be given to the Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

Bring your donations November 12th - December 25th. Donations may be placed under the tree in the Narthex of the Church, or brought to the Church office during the week.

Please join us in helping the children who are hospitalized during this Christmas season; bringing the love of Jesus Christ into their lives.

Fueled by thankfulness



Thankfulness is not a minor virtue. It is not one of the elementary virtues [that] may be left behind as we become more mature. I believe that thankfulness is essential to the strength of every virtue, and that without it every other branch is starved and lean.

Life without thankfulness is devoid of love and passion. Hope without thankfulness is lacking in fine perception. Faith without thankfulness lacks strength and fortitude. Every virtue divorced from thankfulness is maimed and limps along the spiritual road.

—John Henry Jowett



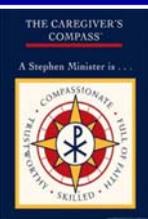
TRANSPORTATION



If you are in need of transportation, the Deacons can help! We will provide transportation to and from church, doctors appointments, tests and lab work. We are unable to transport non-ambulatory persons or if you have been given anesthesia. We can help with information about alternative long term transportation needs. Call the church office at 239-481-3233 and they will contact the Deacons. Please call at least one week in advance of your appointment, if possible.



Stephen Ministry - Not What You'd Expect



"It all began soon after I moved to a new city to live near my family. I had just ended a relationship and I was depending on them to be my support system. But a few months after I arrived, they unexpectedly moved away. It was one of the hardest times of my life.

"I knew I needed to talk to someone. My church had Stephen Ministry. When I found out what Stephen Ministry was, I talked to my pastor about getting a Stephen Minister."

"God's love is always there, but sometimes it can be really hard to feel, especially when you're going through a crisis. A Stephen Minister is Jesus' hands and feet, just being there and caring for a hurting person. Stephen Ministers help those they care for experience God during those times in life when they might be wondering, *Is God even there?*"

A Stephen Minister brings themselves-fully-into Christian fellowship with the care receiver. Being able to empathize, pray and share scripture, allows Christ to bring healing.

We are not meant to be alone. It's by sharing our experiences - good and bad - that we become fully human and in harmony with Christ.

Are you suffering today? Contact Pastor Clint or Ginny Canning about whether Stephen Ministry might be right for you.

Quotes are excerpted from "I began to feel God's love again." a witness from Megan, a care receiver, provided through Stephen Ministries.

October 2017

Dear Friends and Family,

Greetings from Rwanda. As you are settling into autumn, we are in the midst “wedding season.” This is the time of year, while classes are in recess, when our theology students arrange for their weddings. One of the cultural expectations is that pastors in the Protestant churches are married. So students want to get married before they are assigned to churches. Along with the academic preparations for ministry, they are praying for and looking for a life partner for ministry. It is serious business. This August and September I have been invited to participate in 6 weddings.



The bride and groom in a blur of dancing with the joint choir

While there is a prescribed liturgy for a wedding, just as in the States, each wedding is unique and special for the couple and for those who attend. I have enjoyed each of the wedding I have attended, but I must confess that this past Saturday’s was the liveliest wedding service I have ever attended. The bride grew up in a Pentecostal church but joined the Presbyterian Church out of love and solidarity with her groom, a candidate for ministry in the Presbyterian Church. Both the bride and the groom were members of choirs in their respective congregations. Both the choirs came together for the wedding, preparing individual numbers and joint numbers to sing. But they went far beyond that. The traditional wedding practice is that the couple solemnly processes in and takes special seats in the front of the congregation, with their attendants seated behind them. During the course of the service, choirs sing for the couple, even using the couple’s names in the songs. The couple sits and listens with eager enjoyment. Not so on Saturday. The choirs, joyfully singing, formed an honor guard for the couple to enter through, some choir members dancing in front of them to lead them in. During the service, each choir sang, and when they joined together, they danced before the couple. The singing and dancing was contagious. The couple stood and joined the choirs. That was an invitation for the congregation to join. The dancing and clapping went on for five minutes. It was a spontaneous outpouring of joy. The vows and the exchange of rings were punctuated by songs and cheers. The reception, also held in the church, continued the tone as the honor guard again formed, this time with sparklers blazing as the couple dance between the lines of friends. It was the most joy filled wedding service I have ever attended.

As I reflected on it, I believe it is biblical. The ultimate marriage will be our reunion with Christ in heaven, with his church – us - as his bride. The descriptions of Revelation provide us with joy and music of a magnitude we can’t imagine. Why not “practice” here on earth as two of his children are joined in marriage? I rejoiced in this celebration and hope that you may find opportunities for such deep rejoicing in your own lives, if not in weddings, then in God’s creation, in his love, in his presence in your lives. May this be a season of rejoicing in God’s provision and his love.

Yours in Christ,
Kay (Cathie to the family)

“Time to Thank, Time to Share”

Thanksgiving is a time to share.
A roasted turkey stuffed with care,
potatoes, yams and buttered rolls
are passed around in festive bowls.
But first we thank our God above
and share with others his great love.
The dish served last is always best —
a slice of pie for every guest.

—MaryAnn Sundby





Puzzle!

This matching challenge involves words from stories in John's gospel. Draw lines to connect the pairs that *best* belong together.

ANDREW	WINE
DOVE	SIMON PETER
ELIJAH	JESUS
JOHN	CANA
LIGHT	MONEY CHANGERS
PHARISEE	NATHANAEL
PHILIP	NICODEMUS
RABBI	DARKNESS
TEMPLE	TEACHER
WATER	THE BAPTIST
WEDDING	PROPHET
WORD	SPIRIT

Answers: Andrew/Simon Peter; dove/Spirit;
Elijah/prophet; John/the Baptist; light/darkness;
Pharisee/Nicodemus; Philip/Nathanael; Rabbi/
teacher; temple/money changers; water/wine;
wedding/Cana; Word/Jesus