



The Courier

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

Cypress Lake
Presbyterian Church

November
2011



Operation Christmas Child

The twelve-year-old girl shyly peeked under the lid of her shoe box and then clapped her hands and smiled in wonder and delight as she saw all the gifts packed inside. An orphan, abandoned by her older sister, she now lives in a children's home and had never before received a Christmas present.

Now she knows how Christmas feels, along with millions of children all over the world who are receiving Operation Christmas Child shoe box gifts from Samaritan's Purse. The child smiled lovingly at the photos of two sisters about her age, who had packed her gifts more than 8,000 miles away.

"What this means to children like her," said the manager of the Children's Home, "is that, 'Somebody out there loves me.'" That message—at the heart of the Christmas story—is being shared with millions of children who are hungry for hope.

Here at CLPC, we invite you to share in this 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. 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 13th -21st.



Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday November 20TH at 6:00 PM-Fellowship Hall



November 20th begins with a carry-in dinner by YOU with the Turkey and gravy provided. Following the meal we will all help to clean up Fellowship Hall, then proceed to the Sanctuary for a short blessing, continuing with the decorating of the church both inside and out! Help is needed for hanging the outside lights, decorating the big Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary, the Christmas Tree in the office and in the Youth Center, as well as the children making ornaments for the Giving Tree in the Narthex and then decorating it!

This is a wonderful way to bring us all together in the wonder and preparation for the coming of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.....please be a part of this Advent season by being present for a festive and inspiring time in the life of the Church.



November 27th, First Sunday in Advent

We will have visitors who have or had knowledge of the preparation needed for the birth of Jesus. They will be lighting our Advent candles and praying with us. Please take the time to arrive early to the services so that you have the opportunity to meet with them as we begin the Advent Season. Kayley Bishop will also be singing an Advent solo at the Praise and Traditional Services on November 27th. The time for preparing has arrived.

November 20th

Voices in Bronze will be ringing at the Praise and Traditional Services!

The Courier

Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church

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clint@clpc.us

Pastor of Visitation Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Harold Simones

Director of Worship & Music

Rachel Carrier

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Sexton

Charles Barnhill

Staff Musician

Douglas Parker

Nursery Attendant

Lidia Lion

Clerk of Session

Bobbi Bancroft

Presbyterian Women Moderator

Doris King

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

November 2011

5th	8:30 am	Helpshop-Church of the Palm, Sarasota
7th	9:30 am	Project Linus Blanket Work Day Library
	1:00 pm	Executive Board Mtg. Library
8th	9:30 am	Martha Circle
	12:30 pm	Esther Circle - Fellowship Hall
10th	7:00 pm	Eve Circle
24th		Happy Thanksgiving!

Martha Circle will be meeting at the home of June Stewart on November 8th at 9:30 am. For directions or information, please call 481-0863.



Please welcome our newest members.

Greta Hughes
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239-207-8602
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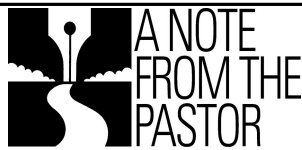
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Many years ago, as a child, my mother, grandmother and aunts would wake us up early on Thanksgiving Day to haul off to church in downtown Pittsburgh. My aunt attended the Episcopal Cathedral right downtown, the one that my great-grandparents first joined when coming to the US in the 1890's. It was a MAGNIFICENT building with the stone and marble columns and walls, the incredible stained glass windows, the cemetery that dated back to the 1700's, and, of course, a HUGE pipe organ and choir with paid soloists. WOW, for a young child it was like walking almost into heaven itself! Oddly enough, forty plus years later I would be granted my doctoral degree from the seminary in that very same cathedral! But back to Thanksgiving...

The worship service would begin, the organ would majestically wake us up and the choir would begin their procession singing the same opening hymn year after year, *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*. Over 4 decades later those words still ring in my mind as clearly as if I were seated in that straight backed pew today:

**We plow the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.**

Refrain:

***All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.***

While Thanksgiving Day may not appear on any official "church" calendar (like Advent, Christmas, Epiphany or Easter), it is probably one of the most Christian acts that we can take. In the Bible there are 42 separate verses where we are called to "give thanks!" As a people, we are to stop and give thanks...regularly! So what are YOU thankful for? Your family? Your friends? Your health? Plentiful food and water? This place we live in and nickname "paradise?" The beautiful palm trees or birds or dolphins in the gulf? Our country? The list is endless. Take time this month to say thank you to God but remember and never forget the words of the song, for they are so true, "All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love."

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Clint

Kids Worship/Operation Christmas Child

Kids Worship has participated in Operation Christmas Child for the past 5 years! We do 32 boxes and take two weeks to prepare, pray, and pack up our Boxes. We write a letter to our prospective receiver and tell where we live within the United States and what school we attend in hopes that we might hear back from one of the children/students.

Please help us by joining the Kids in making this a remarkable year for this Mission outreach. We will collectively have 32 boxes...how many will we receive from the entire church?

Nov. 20th is the last date to bring the boxes to CLPC and after the 11:00am Worship Service, the boxes will leave here and go to the collection point in Cape Coral. Thank you all for your continued support!

The children prayfully thank you also.

Deacons Corner

Our Deacons are in full swing this Fall. We are always ready and willing to help our church family in various ways. Hoping to aid those who are homebound, we can provide meals, do shopping or just talk. Visitation and transportation are also available for all in need with just a phone call to the church office at 481-3233.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
Service Times 8:00 am Morning Prayer 9:00 am Praise Service 9:15 am Kids Worship 10:10 am Sunday School 10:10 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service				<h1>November</h1> 			
6  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 12:45 pm Puppet Rehearsal	7 9:30 am Project Linus 9:30 am Music Exe. Board Mtg. 12:00 pm Staff Mtg. 1:00 pm PW Exe. Board Mtg. Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm	8 7:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Martha Circle 9:30 am Safe Haven Class 12:30 pm Esther Circle 6:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Voices in Bronze 7:00 pm Condo. Assn. Mtg. 7:00 pm Deacons Mtg.	9 9:00 am PIP 10:15 am Children's Chapel 5:30 pm Youth Group 5:30 pm Angels Rock! 6:00 pm Wonderful Wednesdays 7:00 pm Gloria Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	10 6:00 pm Lutheran Services 7:00 pm Eve Circle 7:00 pm Building Comm. Mtg.	11 7:00 am Real Est. Breakfast 3:00 pm Organist Practice	12 1-4:00 pm Organist Practice	
13 Honor the Veterans 12:45 pm Puppet Rehearsal	14 12:00 pm Staff Mtg. Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm	15 9:30 am Safe Haven Class 6:00 pm Voices in Bronze 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Cypress Lake Homeowners Assn. Courier Deadline	16 9:00 am PIP 10:15 am Children's Chapel 5:30 pm Youth Group 5:30 pm Angels Rock! 6:00 pm Wonderful Wednesdays 7:00 pm Gloria Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	17 6:00 pm Lutheran Services 7:00 pm Building Comm. Mtg.	18 3:00 pm Organist Practice	19 1-4:00 pm Organist Practice	
20 Thanksgiving Dinner 6:00 pm Hanging of the Greens 7:00 pm 12:45 pm Puppet Rehearsal	21 12:00 pm Staff Mtg. Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm	22 9:30 am Safe Haven Class 6:00 pm Voices in Bronze 6:00 pm Bible Study	23 9:00 am PIP 10:15 am Children's Chapel NO REHEARSALS	 OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 1-4:00 pm Organist Practice	
27 1st Sunday in Advent 2 Cents a Meal 12:45 pm Puppet Rehearsal	28 12:00 pm Staff Mtg. Food Pantry 11-1 & 6-8 pm	29 9:30 am Safe Haven Class 6:00 pm Voices in Bronze 7:00 pm Food Pantry Mtg.	30 9:00 am PIP 10:15 am Children's Chapel 5:30 pm Youth Group 5:30 pm Angels Rock! 6:00 pm Wonderful Wednesdays 7:00 pm Gloria Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	<h2>Courier Deadline November 15th</h2>			



4th Barbara Tschanen
5th Pat France
8th Eleanor Goff
11th Robert McFedries
Taylor Waldrop
Logan Geist
14th George Ulman
Eileen Coe
Tom Gralton
18th Chris Giesecke
Carolyn Scullion
19th James Winstel
21st Barb McAloose
Dorothy Lias
23rd Donna Brown
Christian Cottrell
Wayne Auman
24th Marcia Mindigo
Jeff Basler
25th Sheila Green
26th Kyle Waldrop
27th Marc Michetti
28th Al Hornung
29th Susan Gross
30th Jim Davis

5th Michael & Carolyn Hornung
14th Larry & Christina Johnson
15th Robert & Elizabeth Peters
22nd Carl & Betty Strom
29th Wayne & Elaine Auman

Investment Committee Update

1st Quarter Fiscal Year 2011-12

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>CLPC Operations</u>		
Income		
Pledged	\$ 80,775	\$ 83,751
Non Pledged	27,284	26,499
Miscellaneous	719	3,588
Total Income	\$108,778	\$113,838
Expense	\$106,383	\$112,034
Net Operations Income (loss)	\$ 2,395	\$ 1,804
<u>Other CLPC Expense</u>		
Severance Pay	\$(15,014)	\$(15,963)
<u>Safe Haven</u>		
Income	\$ 10,504	\$ 28,100
Expense	<u>28,745</u>	<u>27,993</u>
Net S. H. Income (loss)	(18,245)	(107)
	=====	=====
Total CLPC Income (loss)	\$ (30,861)	\$ (14,052)

Note worthy:

As was agreed during the 2011-12 Investment campaign, financial data is being provided on a quarterly basis.

For fiscal year 2011-12, there were 143 Pledges totaling \$325,313. This compares to the anticipated and budgeted amount of \$335,000 (the budget is completed before the pledging period ends). Pledged Income is 73% of our income budget.

Of the 143 pledges, twelve were new pledges which accounts for \$26,100 or 8% of the total pledged.

Budget allocations are done on a straight line basis, while actual Income & Expense vary by the event/need/season.

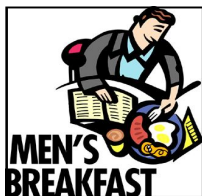
Church Operations are performing as anticipated. We are encouraged, as we have just finished what is traditionally our "slow" or "out of season" period.

With our Associate Pastor obtaining new employment, severance payments are now complete.

The Safe Haven loss is tied to typical beginning of the year losses and income payments due from the State, but not received. There was a paper work error at the State, resulting in no payments this fiscal year for one of our programs. The issue has been resolved, but will not be completely financially rectified until the end of the fiscal year. It is anticipated that the Save Haven School will break even by fiscal year.

Approximately 11% of our contributions are provided via the On-Line Electronic Giving method.

**Tuesday
November 8th**



7:00 am at the Sunflower Cafe

Thank You...

CLPC Members, friends, and staff:

*Thank you all for your prayers, cards, gifts, and support on the recent loss of my brother.
Karen May*



**Daylight Savings
Time ends
November 6th,
2011**



We have been contacted by Coleen Peters, relative of Rob's, and they are now asking if we could help with dinners for the Peters. To help coordinate this, there is a website that they are using to know who is doing what and when...this is really cool!

If you are able to help by making a dinner for the Peters, here's what to do:

1. Go to www.takethemameal.com
2. Enter the name: Peters
3. Enter the password: Peters
4. Click on Rob and Betsy Peters

You will find everything you need to know there. This way you can actually schedule when you are able to go, avoid overlap and list what you are taking!

When Rob gets home from Health Park, he will be on a special diet. Please call Betsy for details.

THANK YOU for the help!!! They are surely a wonderful family and this may be one way we can help beyond our prayers!!!



Blood Drive Success!

On October 2nd, the Florida Blood Centers mobile collection vehicle registered 16 donors and collected 16 units! Every donation potentially saves up to 3 lives and stays in our greater Lee County community. Thank you for your ongoing support of this program.

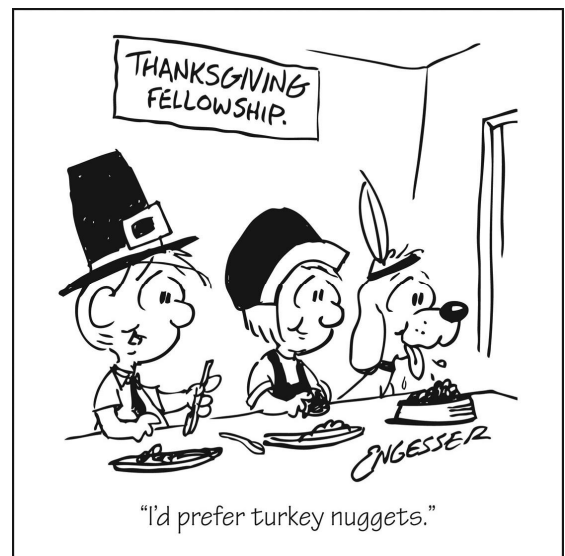
The next blood drive will be December 4th!



BLOOD DRIVE Please call Tim Baldwin at 415-2827 to set up your time to donate and help save a life!

Wonderful Wednesdays!

Thankfully, Chef Harold is recovering nicely from his knee replacement surgery, and he's planning some special menus for us all!! October 26th is his "world famous" Shepherds Pie. Don't miss this one!! November 2nd is Chef's slow-cooked pulled pork barbeque. (I can smell it already) November 9th, Chef Harold is preparing his special Baked Ziti, garlic bread, and salad. November 20th (Sunday), is our wonderful turkey dinner with all the fixins; followed by Hanging of the Greens. Please come and join us!! There will be no dinner on Wednesday, November 23rd as it is the day before Thanksgiving, and we'll all be home with friends and family.



Chancel Guild

November 2011 Schedule

4th Irene Thiessen **11th** Audrey Wilson
Betty Schaarschuch Jean Shell

18th Jackie Oestriech **23rd** Doris Houston
Dorothy Troy Becky Potts

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

Irene Thiessen, Chancel Guild Director

*Be careful of the words you speak,
And keep them soft and sweet!
For you never know from day to day,
Which words you'll have to eat!*

COMMITMENT TO WORSHIP

Chair - Dee Jordan
Member - Brian Granstra
Member - Gavin Dougherty
Member - Bobbi Bancroft
Member - Marietta Meacham
Support Staff - Rachel Carrier



CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Chair - Tom Huntington
Member - Ken VanSwearingen
Member - Rob Coe
Support Staff - Julia Neal

DISCIPLEMAKING

Chair - Sarah Oteni
Member - Jaime Hill
Member - Karen Grabia
Support Staff - Ginny Canning

SUPPORT

Chair - Gordon Coffman
Member - Bob O'Neill
Property - Jim Wray, Walt France, Rich Meacham
Treasurer - Rich Meacham (Interim)
Asst. Treasurer - Dolores Warren
Disaster, Preparedness - Sandy Wharton, Dolores Warren
Personnel - Jim Wray, Sandy Wharton, Julie McFadden
Bldg. Chair - Rich Meacham, Gordon Coffman
Support Staff - Karen May

Ministry Teams meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Youth Center. All are welcome to attend these meetings.