

**Covenant Church Newsletter**  
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**February 2020**

**Pastor's Ponderings**

February is a busy month!

We begin with the Annual Congregational Meeting (Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>). At that time, we hope to elect a new group of elders, and also make recommendations about a change to the Covenant Church Bylaws. The change being recommended is that we discontinue having a Board of Deacons. The Bylaws as currently written require a gathering of the active deacons to consider business and make plans. The Session's vision is to create a Fellowship Elder position, under which many of the Deacon functions will be organized (after church coffee, church fellowship gatherings, meals for the sick and bereaved). It is hoped that this will simplify the life of the church and the service being offered by those who carry out these tasks—in other words, they can just do the things they are called and asked to do, without the added responsibility of a monthly meeting. The current deacons have been consulted about this and they are elated, but please feel free to talk with me or any of the current deacons or elders if you have questions or concerns about this.

That same afternoon (February 2<sup>nd</sup>) I will leave for the ECO National Gathering in Grapevine, Texas (outside Dallas). Several hundred pastors and elders will be gathered over four days to consider the larger vision and ministry of ECO, and to celebrate our life together in Christ. These Gatherings are always a rich time of worship, fellowship, and mission, and I would ask you to keep this in your prayers that week.

I will return on February 6<sup>th</sup>, and then get really busy in preparation for our son's wedding (February 10<sup>th</sup>—yes, a Monday!). I will be out of the pulpit on February 9<sup>th</sup>, but we will have Home of Hope to lead us that day.

On Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> I hope to begin Casa Grande Leadership. This is a City of Casa Grande leadership program, designed to educate citizens on the inner workings of city government and the larger community. I am excited to begin this course and become more familiar with Casa Grande, inside and out!

Then, toward the end of the month, on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> we will mark the beginning of Lent with a simple supper and Ash Wednesday service at 6:00pm. Watch for more details. And finally, on Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> our Session will gather for a retreat. This will be a time to pull away from the usual business of our church life and in prayer and quiet to seek God's vision and leading for the road ahead. Please keep this retreat in your prayers, asking that we will be open and receptive to God's Holy Spirit in that time together.

Like I said, a busy but very exciting month for our church! Thanks in advance for your prayers...may we do your will in our desire to Love God, Love People, and Make Disciples!

In Christ,  
**Brant**

## From The Clerk

Be sure to mark your calendars for the February events happening. On Sunday, **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, immediately after worship we will have cake and our usual beverages to mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church's very beginning. While enjoying our dessert, we will have a brief Congregational Meeting to elect our next Elders, amend our bylaws, and go over 2019 annual reports which will include our 2020 budget.

The Christian Education team has announced that on Sunday, **February 9**, we will be having a special guest teacher for our February adult Sunday School class. Dick LaFever, author of "Ultimate Betrayal: A Testimony of Forgiveness." Also, on February 9, Pastor Theresa Logue and the ladies from the Home of Hope will share in worship with us.

The Mission Team is hoping to be able to fill at least one entire table of 10 for the Seeds of Hope banquet on Saturday, **February 15**. Please call, text or speak to Everett Greenwood as soon as possible if you are interested in attending. Tickets for this wonderful banquet are \$50 each, but if we get a whole table the price is only \$45 apiece. If you have never attended before, you will be amazed to hear about all the wonderful things the faith-based Seeds of Hope does to help children and families help themselves. Besides that, you get a wonderful meal and a great time of fellowship! Thanks to those who came out in the early morning a few weeks ago to help with Seeds of Hope's 5K run. Also, thanks to those who are coming out on Saturday mornings to help build a Habitat for Humanity house for a family who has turned their lives around and are needing a home. Our congregation was also able to give \$1400 to Logos Christian Academy from our December 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering.

The Worship Team is planning a special service for Ash Wednesday, **February 26**. We will start the Lenten season with a supper of soup, bread and water, which will all be provided by the Worship Team, and then a brief time of worship in remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice for us.

Now just add those events to our ongoing opportunities like the Ladies' Luncheon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, Men's Bible Study every Thursday, your Small Group meetings and of course, our Sunday morning worship times led by our terrific Pastor Brant. You will be blessed.

### Adult Sunday School

Our next Adult Sunday School class will be February 9<sup>th</sup>. We are pleased to welcome Dick LaFever, author of "Ultimate Betrayal: A Testimony of Forgiveness." He will speak to us about choosing forgiveness and finding freedom and healing.

### Men's Bible Study

The men of the church meet at the church each Thursday at 11:00am, all men are welcome and you can bring a sack lunch if you like.

## **Neighborhood Help Team**

The Neighborhood Help Team is continuing a service for those who could use a little bit of help. We would like to help you in replacing A/C filters or with some landscape trimming on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Nelson Moore in person or call him @ 520-483-0461.

### **February Calendar**

- 2 Annual Congregational Meeting
- 2 Covenant's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 3-7 Pastor attending EOC National Gathering in Grapevine, TX.
- 9 Home of Hope leads our Sunday service.
- 9 Adult Sunday School after church.
- 11 Ladies Luncheon
- 12 Prayers at the flagpole at McCartney Ranch Elementary, 7:15am.
- 12 Prayer Night, 6:30pm at Carol & Wiley's.
- 13 Worship Team Meeting, 1:00pm.
- 26 Ash Wednesday service, 6:00pm, a simple supper will be served.
- 29 Session members gather for a retreat.

### **February Birthdays**

- 14 Janine Little
- 16 Nelson Moore
- 18 Barbara Dorsey
- 18 Evan Kirkbride

### **February Anniversaries**

- 21 Len & Pauline Johnson