

Covenant Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,

Loving people,

Making disciples

June 2018

CROSS REFERENCES

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step,” so the old saying goes. And it’s true. And isn’t it true that so often we find tagging along not only in the decision to take that first step, but in most every step that follows, is a traveling companion we could really live without. A fellow-traveler who gets under foot all along the way. I am talking about worry. It’s really easy to pick up this companion as this story from an old column by Erma Bombeck bears out:

“My name is Donald and I don’t know anything. I have new underwear, a new sweater, a loose tooth and I didn’t sleep last night; I am worried. What if the school bus jerks after I get on and I lose my balance and my pants rip, and everyone laughs? What if a bell rings and everyone goes into a door and a man yells ‘Where do you belong?’ and I don’t know? What if the trays in the cafeteria are too tall for me to reach? What if the thermos lid on my soup is on too tight and when I try to open it, it breaks? What if my loose tooth wants to come out when we’re supposed to have our heads down and be quiet? What if I splash water on my name tag and my name disappears and no one will know who I am? What if they send us out to play and all the swings are taken? What if the windows in the bus steam up and I won’t be able to tell when I get to my stop?”

And on and on like this it goes. You get the point. Even a six-year-old has anxieties. Even when sent off to a new adventure like school with parents saying, “you have nothing to worry about.” And the sad part is that as we get older the worries mount. We human beings are all very much like little Donald. We’re prone to fretting over a thousand things we can’t control and of which probably 90% or more will never even happen.

As Christians we don’t have to be like little Donald, who introduced himself with the words “... and I don’t know anything.” We do know something very important, which can bring serenity to

our lives and leave behind our unwanted traveling companion. What is it we know? The answer is found in Paul's words to the Philippians: *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say rejoice! Let your patience be known to all. **The Lord is near.** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

The call you've extended to me has brought with it a new journey. I don't know the distance God has planned for us to journey together here in CASA Grande. But together we are going to seek God's future for Covenant Church. So, let's keep in mind that this journey may have started with a single step but it's only the first step. There are many more to go. So be patient and keep on walking. And, I might add, trust in the Lord to direct your paths.

Pastor Bill



FROM THE CLERK

May 2018 was probably our most exciting month yet! The Reverend William (Bill) Pawson is now our new Pastor! As Pastor, he not only does the obvious preaching and pastoral care, but he is now the Moderator of our Session. He led our May Session meeting and presented some of his vision for us to think about.

When you don't have a Pastor, then the Session selects one of their Elders to be the Moderator. Our Session thanks Rex Little for doing a fine job as our Session Moderator for the past two years. When you don't have a Pastor, then you need people who are serious in their Bible study and understanding and are willing and able to teach God's Word to us. The Session gives special thanks to the Elders and members who did an unbelievably great job of bringing God's word to us every Sunday for the past 3 ½ years. Richard Taylor and John Mitchell have given us dozens of encouraging messages to help us understand God's Word to us. We also thank Craig George, Rex Little and Charlie Leniger for their wonderful messages to us. We also thank our many guest speakers and former congregants who also spoke God's truths to us. We are especially happy that many of them have offered to continue teaching us when Pastor Bill needs a break.

As well as new opportunities for our youth, watch for more information about our new Women's Ministry which is starting up! Also, help Derek Moore with pictures and UpToDate information for the new directory.

God is showering us with His blessings!

Hospitality Team

We kicked off May by having our fellowship luncheon early on May 6th. It was a time spent celebrating our new Pastor after a long search by our PNC.

June's fellowship luncheon will go back to the second Sunday, (June 10th). I hope all will stay and continue to get to know each other better. Bring your favorite dish to share if you are able. We always enjoy the snacks on Sunday that anyone brings. We're planning a fall event so continue to watch for details.

Women's Ministry

Ladies of Covenant Presbyterian Church , our church is growing!
We are starting a Women's Ministry and our kick-off event will be a welcoming luncheon for Nina, our Pastor's wife. The event will take place on June 11th at The Lakes clubhouse, at 1PM. The theme will be Hawaiian Luau. Questions & ideas are welcomed, call Vickie at: (520) 280-1426

Deacons report

Your Covenant Deacons are thrilled to be now working with our new Pastor and are looking toward the future in the direction he would like to lead us. The women of Covenant are organizing a luncheon for Mrs. Pawson (Nina) and we look forward to hearing more details about that very soon.

Communion for June will be intinction and we will all come forward to receive it. If members have any questions or concerns for their deacon, please just ask- we are here for you

Theology Matters

June 2018

"GRACE", part 2

As Reformed Christians we use the word "grace" frequently, but do we really understand what it is?

I was thinking about this as I was listening to a song the other day. The message was, if you will, "You raise me up to more than I can be." That seemed a part of an explanation of "grace."

Author Bruce L. Shelley in his work entitled, Church History in Plain Language, says: "Man can be accepted as righteous only through God's undeserved mercy. That is grace. And grace always arises from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms, mentions various types of grace: "actual", "cooperating", "covenant", "free" "habitual", "prevenient",

"sanctifying", "special", and "sufficient". These types of "grace" tend to fall into 3 different camps: Reformed, Arminianism/Wesleyan (John Wesley), and Roman Catholic.

In Reformed theology there is "prevenient grace", that comes before any human response, and is totally of God. Also "irresistible grace," God's grace always accomplishes its purpose in those whom God has chosen to receive salvation. "Sufficient grace" that God's grace is fully adequate to bring salvation to those who believe. Salvation is entirely of God..... God chooses.

In Wesleyan/Arminianism teaching God extends grace and man can choose to accept or reject. "Justifying grace" and "sanctifying grace" that God gives throughout the Christian's life to enable one to live as a faithful Christian. "Free grace" to indicate that God's grace is given universally and not dependent on merit. Salvation is ultimately our choice.Man chooses.

In Roman Catholic teaching "cooperating grace" is conveyed by the sacraments, which then helps you to cooperate in your salvation. Salvation is very "works" oriented. "Actual grace" is intended to help us to meet a particular need and "habitual grace or sanctifying grace." works together with actual grace. Ultimately salvation is dependent on us with God's help.... We earn with God's help.

Christian Ed

Youth Group

Beginning June 24, Crystalle Kirkbride will be having a monthly youth group at her house. Anyone going into sixth grade or above is welcome. We will discuss a new topic each month, play a few games and pray for each other. Youth group will be from 6:30 until 7:30, on the last Sunday night of the month. Please contact Crystalle Kirkbride with any questions, 520-431-4222.

Men's Fellowship

The men of the church meet every Thursday at 11:30am at the church. All men are welcome and you may bring a sack lunch if you like.

June Calendar

- 4 10:00am Women's Ministry
- 6 5:00pm Deacons Meeting
- 11 1:00pm Women's Ministry "Welcome Luncheon for Nina Pawson"
- 14 1:00pm Worship Team
- 17 Father's Day
- 21 7:00pm Session

June Birthdays

- 4 Lori Shuster
- 6 Norma Bertsch
- 9 Mary Moore
- 10 Phoenix
- 12 Justin Sylvestre
- 26 Wiley Smith

June Anniversaries

- 5 Richard & Cathy Taylor
- 19 Charlie & Gayle Leniger
- 24 Everett & Ellen Greenwood