

## Covenant Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,  
Loving people,  
Making disciples

**June 2019**

### **Pastor's Ponderings**

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Karen and I have been with you since the start of May, and it's been a month of warm and easy welcome. THANK YOU for the lovely reception, the flowers and cake, that marked our first Sunday. And THANK YOU for the easy friendship that has followed. You have opened your homes and your hearts, and we are both blessed and excited as we move forward with you. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time, night or day, with prayer concerns, pastoral matters, or questions. I can be reached at [pastorbaker@covenantprescg.org](mailto:pastorbaker@covenantprescg.org), or at 520-201-3738.

As you have probably figured out, the focus of my first month has been to start getting acquainted with you. But even as that continues, it is time for us to get on with what God has put us here to do, which is to be about making disciples. A lot of people equate "discipleship" with "Christian education," and in some respects that's not wrong. But before we can train and equip disciples, we have to make disciples, and that equates to evangelism.

Oh dear—that's a scary word for most of us! It may bring to your mind standing on a street corner with your Bible, or going door to door with gospel tracts. But that's not what I have in mind, nor is it what I think Jesus had in mind. Jesus' way was about *relationship*. You and I have people in our lives who are close to us, but far from God. We see them every week, perhaps every day, and deep down we long for them to know the peace, hope, and joy that we know in Jesus. Then there are the people who move into Casa Grande every day, people coming here

to start a new life. Many of them are excited by that prospect, but moving is stressful and lonely. These new residents are likely very open to new friends (that's you and me!), and in time may also be open to meeting our friend, Jesus.

In the coming months we will be exploring how we can be more intentional about introducing Jesus into the relationships we already have, and we will be actively working to put ourselves into *new* relationships with new residents. We will need people to help with mailings, people to bake cookies, people to deliver cookies, and people to pray, all to the glory of God in Christ Jesus, and to the advance of his Kingdom (see the article on EPIC elsewhere in this newsletter).

Let's go!

In Christ,

Brant

### **EPIC Evangelism**

At its May meeting the Session agreed to begin working with Pastor Brant on his proposal for EPIC Evangelism. EPIC has four parts, and the Session has committed to immediately implement the first three:

**EQUIP** – in the fall Dr. Baker will lead the congregation through a series of sermons designed to help equip us for the opportunities we have to share the love of Jesus with people we love. Jesus has asked us, invited us, commanded us to share his message of Good News. It's not as hard as we tend to make it, but there are some things it's good to know!

**PRAY** – would you be willing to actively pray for someone here in Casa Grande, a person in your life who is close to you, but far from God? Would you share that name (if you haven't already) with Pastor Brant and the elders, so that we might join you in prayer for that person? Would you also pray for our church's efforts in this outreach? Would you commit to pray at least once a week for the invitations we as a church will be sending out to new Casa Grande residents? Pray that God will bless the postcards and the cookies and the visits, that those who receive these will be open to our invitation, that the Spirit will be present to create a sense of urgency in their hearts, that the Lord of the harvest will be glorified.

**INVITE** – over the coming weeks we will be sending 500 "Welcome" postcards to new residents in Casa Grande and Eloy. Moving can be stressful, and people who

have moved to a new place are looking for community. We want Covenant Church to be a place where they can connect!

At the same time, Pastor Brant and others will be taking plates of cookies to some of these new residents (concentrating primarily on the 85122 Zip code for now). These are “front door visits” only: take the cookies, chat a few minutes, offer a prayer and leave. Please let Brant know if you would be willing to be part of this team.

That means we need cookie bakers as well! If you would be willing to make a few batches of cookies (and pray over them as you bake!), please contact Brant for more specific instructions (find contact information in his article).

May God bless these efforts!

### **FROM THE CLERK**

Our May Session Meeting was led by our new pastor, Dr Brant Baker. As most of you know already, our wonderfully enthusiastic new pastor is rapidly getting to know and visit everyone associated with Covenant. He and Karen are wanting to visit with people after worship on Sundays too, so be sure to give him an invitation either individually or in your small groups. Besides caring for the current flock at Covenant, the Elders were excited to share in a vision of reaching out to newcomers to Casa Grande to grow Covenant and more importantly the Kingdom of God. It will be important for everyone to help in this endeavor as we are all commanded to by our Lord. Matthew 28:19 states “Go and make disciples of all nations” which includes our community.

Our library has been a little neglected for a while, but we are looking into getting some new shelving. If you’ve ever thought about helping with a library, we are looking for a person or two who like to continue to organize a library. I know there are some avid readers out there! Talk with Pastor or any of the Elders.

If you miss a Sunday, be sure to go onto our website, [covenantprescg.org](http://covenantprescg.org) where sermons are posted. Thank you, Richard Taylor and Derek Moore for making sure these are recorded and posted every week. Also, thanks to Derek for his hard work these past few years in developing our directory and continually updating our website. Now with his many new responsibilities as a Ruling Elder and Treasurer for the congregation, Derek welcomes Pastor Brant who has agreed to update the website. Check it out. It also has the directory of our congregants. If

you don't remember the password to get into our directory, check with Pastor or Derek on Sunday.

The Session would like to give special thanks to Elder Richard Taylor, who has faithfully led us in worship so many times over the past 4 years. His sermons have been inspirational and Biblical. He has obviously spent much time in study and preparation. Besides all that, he has brought in dozens of wonderful guest speakers over the years, led music, led us in prayer times, and always been willing to serve our God however called upon to do. God has truly blessed us at Covenant with this fine servant.

### **Deacons report**

As we go into summertime, there will be some changes to our schedule. Our next congregational luncheon will likely be in September and updates for that will be announced in August.

Holy communion will be celebrated the 1st Sunday on June 2nd by way of intinction.

If you would like to contribute some goodies occasionally for Sunday mornings, please get with one of the Deacons.

### **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 offering a new service. 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.

### **June Calendar**

- 1 Hope Presbytery meeting, 9:00am at Fountain Hills Presbyterian
- 1 Deacons Meeting, 9:00am
- 2 Communion by Intinction
- 12 Prayer night, 6:30pm at the Smiths'
- 13 Worship Team, 1:00pm at the Taylors'
- 20 Session Meeting, 7:00pm
- 26 Prayer night, 6:30pm at the Smiths'

### **June Birthdays**

- 4 Lori Shuster
- 6 Norma Bertsch
- 9 Mary Moore
- 12 Justin Sylvestre
- 25 Lois Wiege
- 26 Wiley Smith

### **June Anniversaries**

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