

**Covenant Church Newsletter**  
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A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,  
Loving People,  
Making Disciples

**June 2021**

**Pastor's Ponderings**

Thanks again to everyone who came out to the soft launch for the Newcomers and Neighbors Club a couple of weeks ago. It was very helpful to do this dry run and of course to continue deepening our understanding of what we're about in this undertaking. If you missed that evening, or if you forgot to fill out a membership form, please let one of the NCC Board Members know (me, Shay Marsh, Cathy Taylor, or Lisa Koster).

I made some off-the-cuff remarks that night that, on reflection, might need additional clarification. Last spring, as the Session considered our unique identity as a church in Casa Grande, we came to the realization that we are a church with strong giftedness in the area of "retired people who love Jesus." In other words, the resource we have the most of is us, and we are who we are.

But our overall congregational age also happens to reflect a truth about Casa Grande as well. At the Mayor's Clergy luncheon a couple of weeks ago we were all given a copy of the city's economic development magazine, "A Growing Horizon." One of the tidbits it mentions is that 21.3% of Casa Grande's total population of 58,632 people are in the 55-74 age cohort, and another 9.4% are 75+, which when taken together means that over 30% of the city's residents are 55+. Children and teens (0-19 years) are the next largest category at about 28%.

And so, while we will never ignore the precious children God sends our way, and while we will continue our vigorous support of Casa Grande schools, and while we are glad for those churches full of young families, and while we might wish we could be that kind of church, that's not who we are, at least not just now. If God should change the make-up of our church, we will give thanks and adapt. We would find volunteers or hire staff, and embrace that God was doing a new thing. But rather than wringing our hands about what we are *not*, let's embrace who we are now. Let's celebrate that we are uniquely positioned to reach a mission field in Casa Grande that other churches may be overlooking.

Another fun tidbit in the city's economic development magazine is that there were 1,107 building permits for single family homes issued in 2020, plus another 11 for multi-family housing. The city is projecting a 2030 population of 75,049 people, which among other things means that *more than one house must be built every day for the next ten years*. Wow!

All of this means that the Newcomers and Neighbors Club is likely to be an excellent path for us to follow in getting to know the new residents in Casa Grande. In particular, if current trends continue, the 55+ age demographic that we are so uniquely gifted to reach will increase by almost 5,000 new residents (plus a good number who will age into that group). All God wants us for is to show hospitality and friendship to these people, many of whom are looking for social connection, and whether they know it or not, *spiritual* connection as well.

With God's help, we can do this!

In Christ,

Brant

### **FROM THE CLERK**

What a wonderful addition to our service on May 23 to officially charter Covenant Church and officially install Pastor Brant and our Elders to lead our officially chartered church. I think that makes us official! It was great to have guests from our Hope Presbytery join us for this special occasion as we move forward in our mission.

We are pleased to announce our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday missions offering for May to our local Home of Hope will give them over \$1500 in much needed help. If you were gone that Sunday or forgot your offering you can bring it this coming Sunday.

Now that most people have been vaccinated and Covid is on the decline, masks are optional during our worship services or other church activities. We have also added seats for worship and you don't need to sit in an "assigned" seat anymore. The worship team has decided to continue to place the offering baskets near the entrance on Sunday mornings, but we will have those tithes and gifts brought forward for a prayer of dedication during our worship services.

### **Men's Bible Study**

The Men of the church meet each Thursday at 11:30am, all men are welcome, and you can bring a sack lunch if you like. Wearing a mask is optional. If you would like to be part of the Bible study, please call Brant for more information (520-876- 2888 or 480-458- 7628).

## 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.

### June Calendar

- 6 Communion
- 9 Prayer Night, 6:30pm at Carol Smith's
- 10 Worship Team meeting, 1:00pm
- 17 Session meeting, 6:00pm
- 20 Adult Sunday School, title "Cultivating Possession"
- 20 Father's Day
- 23 Prayer Night, 6:30pm at Carol Smith's

### June Birthdays

- 4 Lori Shuster
- 6 Norma Bertsch
- 9 Mary Moore
- 25 Lois Wiege

### June Anniversaries

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