



The Heartline

Covenant Presbyterian Church

“Loving God by Serving Others”

1001 NW 98th Street, Gainesville, FL 32606-5503

Church Office: (352) 332-0400

covenantpresb580@bellsouth.net

FAX: (352) 332-5802

covenantpresbyterianchurch.org



“Where Hearts are Warmed”

June 2012

Graduation Celebration

From time to time, we experience a new beginning in our faith journey when the Holy Spirit breaks into our lives to inspire us, to lead us, and to deepen our commitment to Christ.



On June 3rd, we praised God for what is happening in the lives of these graduates: Ceara Ebbs from Buchholz High School, Monica Nimmo from Florida State University, and Keith & Judd Ivines from Santa Fe Community College. We were blessed to have the presence of Ceara and Monica to receive their gifts from CPC and participate in the laying on of hands from Elders during the following prayer:

Loving God, like a Good Shepherd searching for a lost lamb, like a woman looking for a lost coin, like a father receiving a lost son, Your Love is Complete. You never forsake us, no matter how far we move away from You. We thank You for all You've done for these dear ones in guiding and abiding with

[Continued on page 4]



IN
THIS
ISSUE

[Click titles or page numbers to see articles]

Pastor's Letter	2
Passings	3
Council Retreat	5
Anniversaries	5
Request	5
Meditation Trail	6
Fellowship	6
Committee News	7
Our Elders	10



As Christians, we have an obligation to invest in the Christian faith by witnessing on some level about the hope we hold by it. So think about how you're going to invest your faith!

This May, Camp Montgomery opened its facilities to the Council of Covenant Presbyterian Church. Away from the business of our families and my office, we all spent a Saturday redoing the church budget. It's an intentional budget. By that, I mean that CPC's committees all have an understanding of where each committee is on-track in their programs. We now better understand what each committee does and is hoping and planning to do; we understand where our funds come from and where the funds go. And we realize that budgeting has to be a conscious effort, and an effort that puts "self" (ego) aside and demands that we allow Christ in the middle. Because, you know, Christ really does want to be in the middle of all that the church does presently and dreams of doing in our future. *We're trying to work on investing our faith!*

That means that we are focusing on how we can get **you** involved in *being church*! Who will you

have over for lunch and share the newsletter with? Will you help me go out on visitations? Or, will you call someone in the congregation or in your neighborhood who you think might like a visit and short prayer with you and your minister? Will you share the news with friends and neighbors that your church has a really nice woman pastor and preaches **outstanding** sermons? (I hope you feel that way!) *How will you invest your faith?*

And, **wow** -- We have two new members who joined the Buildings & Grounds Committee June 3rd -- their first names are Brian and Danny. Will you ask who they are and give 'em big hugs during the Passing of the Peace of Christ next Sunday? And if you're interested in coming to the church library once a month to meet as a prayer group to pray intentionally, reverently for prayer concerns (people and situations) *let's begin that group!* How about coming to Sunday School in the library, or attending the women's Koinonia group or the Agape group this summer? *How will you invest your faith?*

[Continued on page 3]

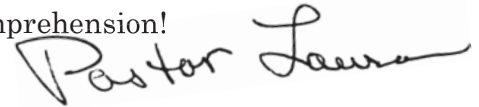
[To Table of Contents]

And I'm going to keep nagging youth to help me get a youth group going for some **fun**! Hey – I mean, I need some **fun**! I'm hoping that you'll all support our youth by donating (through fund-raisers, or by more direct approaches) toward what they look forward to experiencing this summer, whether Christian concerts, or movie nights, or sleep-overs, or water-balloon volley ball (my favorite in the summer) – whatever. And, by the way, don't forget to hug a youth – it's really cool because they always hug you back! *Again, we're examining our lives to see how the Holy Spirit is telling us to invest our faith!*

Lastly and most importantly, our Council told the CRT of Presbytery that we would be committed to involving the congregation in a "Healthy Congregation Program," led by Pastors Charlie and Alisun, who were among the CRT team that met with our groups in January. The dates are June 9th and June 16th. The time is from 9 to 11 AM, with a break after 45 minutes. *Please plan to attend – it's really important that you commit yourself to the healing of our congregation so that we may move forward in any evangelism* (which some people call "church growth"). *This is a major investment of your faith!*

Again: *As Christians, we have an obligation to invest in the Christian faith by witnessing on some level about the hope we hold by it. So, think about how you're going to invest your faith!*

Blessed be in Christ's peace, which, by far, is beyond our comprehension!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Laura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Our Hearts are Moved

We lift up the families of Alicia Wishard and Joyce Marquez as they have entered the Church Triumphant this past month.

Kaite Nighthorse's mother, Alicia Wishard, transitioned her earthly life to heavenly eternity on 5/18/12. The family requests donations be made to Odyssey Hospice of Ocala or the Humane Society of Marion County. Keep Kaite's family in your prayers for healing and acceptance. Kaite would appreciate all of your support. Her address is P. O. Box 284, Archer FL 32608

Helen River's sister, Joyce Marquez, joined the Church Triumphant on 5/24/12 in Miami, FL. Keep Helen and Joyce's family in your prayers for healing and acceptance. Helen would also love your support. Her address is 3405 NW 27th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32605

them. Strengthen them by the Holy Spirit, so that they may grow in faith and increase in love for You and others who appear on their paths. May their service and witness bring You honor and glory. Amen

Pastor Laura gave this charge to the graduates: *Live in mercy and peace, so that you may expand the Kingdom of God. Let love and justice be your guides. Go forth into the world from this time in your lives to serve God. Thanks be to God. Amen*

Of course, no celebration would be complete without the fellowship of family and friends and lots of food. The Fellowship Committee outdid themselves with a “Salad Day” event! The main focal point was the cake that Wendy Firman baked for the graduates. The cake was so big that the doors to the refrigerator had to be taken off to get the cake inside and then removed again to serve it. Thanks to John Ebbs for his fatherly duty as “Gatekeeper,” or door master. The cake had pictures of Ceara and Monica and a replica of the Sante Fe College seal. We are so sorry that the Ivines brothers could not be present for this joyous occasion. We know they were here in spirit for the festivities.



Council Retreat

On May 5th, the CPC Council met at the Montgomery Presbytery Conference Center as guests of the Presbytery to mediate and prayerfully consider our budget for this current year. John Tucker presented a complete picture of revenue streams for the church, which indicated a shortfall. Council decided to not touch personnel costs but to focus on materials and services. Throughout the day, we discussed every line item in the materials and services and came up with recommendations that were approved by a unanimous Council vote. We weren't perfect in our deliberations and came up with a figure greater than our income; however, we stepped out on a leap of faith that we would be able to provide for the church and that God would provide a solution for the remaining gap. We will reexamine our status in September, as we get closer to the end of our fiscal year. We are asking for your prayers and consideration of the decisions we made regarding the budget. Every program and initiative is important to our outreach and to touching lives; however, we feel we can accomplish our goals with a different approach this year.



Anniversary Special

On June 3rd, we celebrated the 58th anniversary of John and Ophelia Carver. We recognized Ophelia for her patience, Pastor Laura said a special blessing, and John Carver planted a kiss on Ophelia at the end. Can you imagine being married for 58 years to the same person? It is a reality for John and Ophelia. Congratulations from all of us at CPC and thanks for allowing us to share in your moment!

Another anniversary of 58 years to note is that of Bea and Norm Farmer. Although they were not present for our celebration on June 3rd, we hold them in our hearts as we know they were present in spirit. We offer them *congratulations* for a long and prosperous marriage. Give them a jingle to wish them well!

A Request from the Outreach Committee

As we prepare to serve communion to those who cannot attend worship, we want to know if you have someone who needs our service. Please provide Pastor Laura, Larry Herrington, or another Ruling Elder with information about any whom you feel we should visit and offer communion. We will be using church attendance as one indicator ... so, if you don't want to be surprised by a visit, please be sure to sign the friendship pads each Sunday as you participate in Worship. It is important that we have an accurate tally of attendance each Sunday. Don't forget to let us know of those in need!

[\[To Table of Contents\]](#)

Meditation Trail – Spring and Summer Blooms – *by Mike Hein, ASLC*

The progression of blooming plants should continue this month - assuming that we get more rain. (It seems in really dry years, like the last couple, many of the plants go into a survival mode and just exist without expending energy to put up flower spikes.) With rain, the dwarf palmetto plants (*Sabal minor*), with minute white flowers on 6- to 8-foot flower spikes, should be blooming at the far end of the original trail loop. Although some of the white crinum lilies bloomed their petals off in May, the red-and-white striped ones and the maroon ones should start blooming near the end of the month. The garden montbretia (*Crocasmia crocosmiliflora*) should start blooming near the end of the month in the area just past the bridge and in the triangle of the Y. Finally, watch for the black raspberries getting ripe (if the birds don't get them) near the start of the trail behind Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Fellowship Committee News

There has been an amazing turnout of members and guests staying after service to participate in festivities in the Fellowship Hall. May's Community Dinner was the fabulous Ivy House Recipe chicken, collard greens, and oven-brown potatoes, hosted by our own Debbie Alessi, and desserts donated by Covenant members.

We would also like to take a moment to recognize and thank Pauline Wise for her tremendous work in calling members and designing a list of contributors for Sunday Fellowship, taking us all the way through the end of 2012. It took a lot of time and dedication; we truly are blessed with her accomplishment.

The schedule for June is loaded. Graduation Sunday was on June 3rd, honoring our Graduates; Ceara Ebbs (Buchholtz High School), Monica Nimmo (Florida State University), and Judd & Keith Ivines (Santa Fe College). Father's Day

Celebrations will follow on Sunday, June 17th; we are going to be cooking up a storm to honor all of our wonderful Fathers here at Covenant. Birthday Sunday continues to be a wonderful time of Celebration as well.

Beginning in June, the Fellowship Committee has voted to start an Offering Program called, "Sponsor a Cake." It works the same as the Church Flower Program. A sign-up sheet is located in the kitchen of the Fellowship Hall the sponsorship cost is \$15. See Debbie Alessi for more details.

Keep Sunday, July 1st, on your calendars, as the CommUnity Dinner will be a BBQ with the entire "fixin's." Bring a friend or two along to join in on Pastor Laura's phenomenal sermon followed by hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, corn on the cob, potato salad and much, much more.

Our Committees

The committees of Covenant have been active this past month. Here are highlights of their actions.

Administration and Personnel (meets 3rd Sunday following worship) Janis Bomar, Chair

- Purchase of new projector for use during church worship when our original one had its brain scrambled during a power surge
- New nametags prepared for everyone
- Reviewing photocopier use costs compared to printer costs
- Updating job description for Administrative Assistant
- Writing guidelines and processes for church members to attend Council Meetings
- Assuming the responsibility for keeping the church sign (marquee) up to date
- Office will be manned by volunteers during June from 10 AM – 2 PM

Budget and Finance John Peters, Chair

- Attended budget workshop May 5th at Montgomery Presbyterian Center
- Continue to meet with Cell Tower committee as efforts continue to negotiate a new lease with Crown Castle
- John Tucker will back-up Kaite Nighthorse for weekly accounting entries and other financial records as Kaite tends to concerns for her mother during this time
- Working with Presbytery on a program to increase Covenant's congregation and all programs that will support growth

Building and Grounds (meets 1st Sunday following worship) John Carver, Chair

- Memorial Garden has completed phase one
- Continue working with attorney to determine amount Crown Castle is willing to pay to extend their lease
- Reprogramming of the irrigation system is completed. If you have any questions regarding the watering schedule, please speak to John Carver. Do not try to reprogram the system.
- Contract for cleaning of the church has been awarded to Wendy Firman
- Planning process ongoing for replacement of doors and windows for the Sanctuary

[\[Continued on page 8\]](#)

[\[To Table of Contents\]](#)

Worship and Music (meets 4th Sunday following worship) Kay Ebbs, Chair

- Bulletin content to be prepared one month in advance, with hymn and praise music and sermon titles.
- Dan Graham and Alison Donovan filled the pulpit on April 29th and May 6th
- Alice Nippes substituted for Brittany on May 20th and will be with us on June 24th
- We celebrated Mother's Day with Communion, flowers for mothers, and two special birthday recognitions:
 - Cearra Ebbs for her 18th
 - Garnet Brenner for her 97th
- Planned a service planned for graduating seniors on June 3rd
- Planned a Father's Day celebration
- We are exploring the possibility of serving communion during Harbor Chase ministry the 3rd Sunday of the month at 2:30 PM
- Liturgists selected for May, June and August
- Planning for July 4th celebration on July 1st
- We are exploring alternative times for worship and Sunday School. We will survey the congregation before making any decisions
- Developing Worship and Music manual for the office
- Pursuing the use of Elders for pulpit supply when Pastor Laura is not available

Outreach (meets 2nd Tuesday of month 6 PM) Larry Herrington, Chair

- Decided to place budget amount (\$750) allocated for Outreach in our reserve account
 - Guaranteed amount for Dental student mission will be eliminated and will be covered by giving during service students present
 - Eliminating the budget item for Gainesville Community Ministries. Special envelopes will be provided in November for this offering
 - B J Kuhn will take all food and clothing left at church to St. Francis House
 - Special offering in September for Duval Food4Kids
 - Special offering for ACORN in July with speaker from agency
- 2-cents-a-meal ongoing and announcements will be made during worship the first Sunday of month with reminder in bulletin
- Pastor Laura and one Elder can provide Communion for those unable to attend church

[Continued on page 9]

[To Table of Contents]

Christian Nurture and Education Susan Nimmo, Chair

- CPC continues to be a place of Christian Nurture and Education for its members
- Each Sunday we have opportunity to come together in our little church where we know each other by name
- After a long week of work and worry, we look forward to the opportunity to join in worship of our God that makes all things possible
- We bring cares and concerns of family and friends that weigh so heavy on our hearts because we are helpless to cure an illness, find a job, or mend a broken heart
- By being faithful to our Lord, those burdens are lifted and our souls made light that they may soar again in song
- There are countless ways for us to find peace

at Covenant

- The smiling greeters who open wide doors welcoming friends old and new
- The cool, quiet of our beautiful sanctuary bathed in radiant light streaming through the stained glass window
- The familiar strains of hymns, creeds, and prayers; together in unison as it was yesterday, is today, and will be tomorrow
- Scripture readings and sermons with new insights for each individual
- The warmth of fellowship over a meal shared
- Peace and tranquility sitting in the Memorial Garden and reflecting on life's blessings
- Covenant continues to nurture and educate its members through our pilgrimage in life

Nominating Committee (meets as needed throughout the year) Susan Nimmo, Chair

- Will need to convene to prepare a slate of candidates addressing the resignation of Helen Rivers from Council

Fellowship (meets 2nd Sunday following worship) Debbi Alessi & Cearra Ebbs, Co-chairs

[See the article on page 6 for news.]

Next Council meeting: June 25th at 6:30 PM.

Meet Your Ruling Elders

[Ed. note: This is the first of a series that will profile our congregation's leaders. As space allows in the issues of coming months we will feature two or three of these dedicated servants.]

John Carver, Class of 2012.

John has been a member of CPC since 1988 and has been active in the church the entire time. In 2008, the first Building and Grounds Committee was formed and John has chaired this committee ever since. Many changes have occurred over the years to the church property under his leadership: Memorial Garden, irrigation system, azalea borders, negotiation of the cell tower lease, improvements to the Meditation Trail, "Fun, Hot, Busy Work Days," sound system improvements, building of closets in the sanctuary to house electronic equipment and church supplies used during worship, and current planning for replacement of Sanctuary windows and doors. John has been a true steward of the building and grounds. John served as Co-chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee. His term on Council ends this December.



John Peters, Class of 2012.

John has been a member of CPC since 1996 and has been an active member of the church since then. He recently was elected as an Elder for a one-year term, serving as Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee. John's profession has been infused into our



church's operations with use of the "church at night" photo as the hallmark of our church website, the photo of the "stained glass window in the front of the Sanctuary" that adorns our current church directories, and pictures of our pastors. John is a recent graduate of Santa Fe Community College, with a degree in digital media technology. He has been a member of several committees during his tenure here. His term on Council ends this December.

Helen Rivers, Class of 2013

(Retired). Helen joined CPC in 2003 and has always wanted to get active in the church life. She was recently elected for a two-year term and assumed Chair of Member Care. Prior to her selection as a Ruling Elder, Helen was very active in the Memorial Garden Committee. Helen's Member Care committee brought a social worker from the VA system to meet with our church and talk about our boundaries in caring for those in the community needing assistance. Facing personal concerns, Helen has asked to be relieved of her duties on Council, and thus we call her "Retired." Best wishes to Helen in resolving those concerns so she can return to her Covenant family as a Ruling Elder.



2012 Session
Rev Laura Joost-Kuhn, Moderator

Debbi Alessi	Janis Bomar
John Carver	Ceara Ebbs
Kay Ebbs	Larry Herrington
Susan Nimmo	John Peters
Helen Rivers	Clerk John Tucker

The Heartline is published monthly. You may submit articles either handwritten, typed, or on disk (saved in text or Word format) and delivered to the church office.

Deadline for the next newsletter is
June 22, 2012.

If you have a question about submitting an article for *The Heartline*, please call John Tucker.