

Zechariah's Praise

"Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel! He has come to the help of his people and has set them free. He has provided for us a mighty Savior, a descendant of his servant David."

Luke 1:68-69

The Clarion

JANUARY 2010 • THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thank you for your participation with the Salvation Army stockings (over 200 were delivered), the Christmas shoeboxes for MOPs, the Heifer Project, and the recent Joy Offering. What a blessing it is to be part of such a wonderful church. Thank you!
—DeAnne Sawyer, Mission Committee

For a further update and praise report from the Mission Committee, please see page two.



DeAnne Sawyer and Barry Metzger (a.k.a., Santa's helpers) loaded the Salvation Army Christmas stockings. (There were more stockings than the ones pictured!)

THIS YEAR'S THEME: REALLY LIVING!

Join us on Wednesday, January 6, as Covenant's annual lecture series begins its ninth season! The lectures start at 10:00 a.m. preceded by coffee and snacks at 9:30. Enjoy outstanding speakers on a variety of topics. This free lecture series is open to the general public. No advance registration is required. Come to Covenant for a stimulating morning. You're welcome to bring a friend!

Details are available in the Wednesday Morning Live brochure in the church office or online at covpcfm.com (once you've reached our home page, please click on the WML link in the left column).

WEDNESDAY MORNING LIVE!

Community Lecture Series for 2010

January 6

THE THEOLOGY OF DANCE

The Rev. Daniel L. Hagmaier
Sr. Pastor
Covenant Presbyterian Church

January 13

EASTERN ETHICS

Dr. Russell Swanson
Professor of Philosophy
Edison State College

January 20

OUR FLORIDA TREASURES

Rae Ann Wessel
Natural Resource Policy Director
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation
Foundation

January 27

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO TELL

Russ Kilgore
News Director
Wink TV

February 3

MUSIC THERE SHALL BE

Mary Mozelle
Director of Music & Organist
Covenant Presbyterian Church

February 10

A LIFE OF RICHES

The Rev. James A. Bing
Pastor
Friendship Baptist Church, Ft. Myers

February 17

A CONVERSATION WITH AN ICON

Berne Davis
Community Leader and Philanthropist

February 24

ARE WE HEALTHY YET?

Sally Jackson
Systems Director, Community Projects
Lee Memorial Health System

YOU'RE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY OR ALL OF THE LECTURES!



FROM OUR PASTOR

The Rev. Daniel L. Hagmaier

Happy New Year! A new year is always a good time to rethink our priorities and goals and then make them happen. It will take discipline, commitment, and hard work, but I believe all of us can achieve anything we put our minds to do! The Apostle Paul said it well, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"* In 2010, may you be strengthened and energized with a renewed vigor and vision.

On January 10th and running through Lent, I will be preaching a series on the Life of King David, a man of passion and destiny. David is a fascinating character. He was the only person in all of Israel's history to encompass the Promised Land that God had promised Moses and Joshua. He has been described by God as *"a man after God's own heart!"*

David is one of the most beloved people in Israel's history. After all, he wrote a slew of Psalms, including the most quoted passage in all of scripture, Psalm 23. As we explore David's life, we will look at the way he handled the giants in his life, his close friendships that carried him through his darkest moments, his unwavering commitment to God, and his human side which resulted in some major failures.

David is human, and as a human he must deal with a fractured family that turns on him as well as watching his children topple his world upside down. David was blessed with talent, leadership, faith, and a loyal fan base who thought he walked on water. As we know, he would fail miserably yet open his heart to God and confess his sin in a very emotional way.

David lived an incredible life, and I pray his story touches and transforms each of us into serving our Lord and enables us to say with David, *"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want!"*

Blessings,



Rev. Daniel Hagmaier

*On January 10,
our pastor will
begin a special
sermon series!*

Thank You for Sharing!

Another Note of Thanks and Praise From the Mission Committee!

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation of Covenant for their wonderful response these past few months to various requests for outreach into the community and the world. The Special Appeal for Misi3n Peniel was a huge success, enabling the mission to continue through 2010 and allowing Pastor Miquel Estrada to remain with this important outreach in Immokalee. Thanks to all who have given donations to this mission and have given toys (Acolytes' toy drive), Teddy bears (John and Ellen Sheppard), and canned goods (Sunday School classes). They are greatly appreciated by Misi3n Peniel. Pastor Estrada and his family have been attending Covenant, and we are so excited to have them worship with us. We will be going again to Immokalee on January 29, so please sign up in the church office.—*DeAnne Sawyer, Mission Committee*

Thank You From Covenant's Presbyterian Women!

Covenant's Presbyterian Women want to thank our church family for baking and then buying every single item offered at last November's annual bake sale. Thanks to you, we raised \$350 for missions! We also want to thank all of those who helped make the Hanging of the Greens service such a huge success. A wonderful Covenant tradition carries on!

Talent Show!

**January 10
7:00 P.M.
Fellowship Hall**

The Primetimers are bringing back the Covenant Capers! This is an opportunity for the members of our church family to display their talents! Punch and cookies will be served. If anyone would like to bring cookies to share, that would be most appreciated.

*Friends of all ages are
welcome to join us!*



*The Session took a hiatus
in December but will
resume in January!*

Rosemary Oliver is offering four calligraphy classes to eight Covenant members! For many years, Mrs. Oliver has created our beautiful baptismal and new-member certificates (as well as many of the framed verses displayed in the church office). We are delighted and honored that she's willing to share her expertise!

Four Calligraphy Classes
Starting Saturday, January 30,
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Class size is limited to eight.
There is a fee for supplies,
but the four lessons
are complimentary!
Please call Mrs. Oliver at
437-9254 to sign up.
(Covenant members only)

NEW MEMBER CLASS JANUARY 10!

If you are interested in becoming a member of Covenant Church or if you are a recent new member interested in learning more about Covenant and our Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination, you are invited to attend a New Member Class on Sunday, January 10, from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. Class topics will include:

- ✓ Overview of the Presbyterian Church (USA);
- ✓ PC(USA) beliefs, creeds, and confessions; and
- ✓ Covenant Church history, organization, and ministries.

Please call the church office at 334-8937 to register.

**Mission Spotlight on Zimbabwe
LANCE AND ELIZABETH EDWARDS**

Lance and Elizabeth Edwards run Ebenezer, a training center that aims to equip young people in rural Zimbabwe with the practical skills needed to run their own small-scale agricultural businesses. By combining business, agriculture, and Bible teaching, this training center hopes to produce men and women who can provide for their families and become mature, Christ-centered leaders in their rural communities.

During the two-year stay of these apprentices, they are able to make enough profit to repay their start-up loans and to buy the livestock and equipment needed to continue their businesses at their homes. Ebenezer gives people the opportunity to not only become successful farmers and business people but also to become mature followers of Christ. Classroom discussions based on the Bible are made practical as staff and apprentices live alongside one

TOOLS FOR THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

The Spiritual Care committee invites you to participate in a retreat on January 23, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

We will explore ways to more fully follow God's path as we journey through life. We will use scripture and a variety of prayer as well as psychological and physical aids to go through our journey with strength and God's grace. There will be time for input from the leader, individual contemplation, and group discussion. Please join us as we have fun, explore, and grow!

To register, please sign up at the Connection Station by January 20. There is no fee.

Leader: Mary Ellen Frost, MA, CTA

another and serve the community around them.

Lance and Elizabeth wrote this fall about God's hand in their work. "In early May, just as the first crop of tomatoes was ripening, our friend Mbonisi was driving back to Ebenezer from a meeting. He noticed a thick layer of hail covering the area. When Mbonisi asked Lance about it, Lance didn't know what he was talking about. Ebenezer neighbors were also asking the staff, 'How are things at your place?' and couldn't believe it when we told them the tomatoes and cabbages were fine. There was significant hail damage all around Ebenezer, but not one hail stone fell on Ebenezer or the crops! *It was as though God had covered Ebenezer with His hand while the hail fell. God used the hail to remind us that He is with us and has protected us from many things we have not been able to see!*"

Covenant Presbyterian Church has supported this mission project for a number of years. For more information, contact DeAnne Sawyer, Bill Whitaker, or Pat Arner.

*Welcome,
New Members!*

*Ben & Tish Kendall
Gerry & Sally Wilson*

CONGRATULATIONS!

Brandon Roberts has received the Bachelor of Arts degree in hospitality administration from the Dedman School of Hospitality at Florida State University.

Kelly Shafer Kensinger has received the Bachelor of Science degree in business management from the University of North Florida.

Presbyterian Women

PW Leaders Study

Monday, January 4, 11:00 a.m. - F205

The Women's Circles meet monthly:

Naomi Circle

Monday, January 11, 6:30 p.m., F202/203

Deborah Circle

Tuesday, January 12, 10:00 a.m., F205

Ruth Circle

Tuesday, January 12, 10:00 a.m.,

Leiana Verwest's home at
6928 Old Whiskey Creek Dr.

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, January 14, 9:30 a.m., F205

Mary Circle

Friday, January 15, 9:30 a.m., F204

Please call the church at 334-8937 or Ruth Whipple at 936-4848 for more information.

♥ Homebound Friends ♥

Please pray for our friends who are unable to attend services: Herb Beatty, Ethel Bell, Shirley Bellack, Ann Brown, Dorothy Browne, Ellie Bupp, Pearl Cartwright, Barbara Childs, Doris Cox, Loa Dowler, Betty Gibson, Hazel Halter, Barbara Hill, Wendy L'Hommedieu, Edith McDaniel, Esther McFarland, Dudley Smith, and Ginny Wand.

God bless you!

Book Sale

Covenant's library will host its annual book sale this month. You're invited to browse through the wide variety of books! If you'd like to donate used books, please drop them off in the library or the church office. Proceeds will benefit the library.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of this congregation who are gifted in compassionate caring and who have been trained to walk with hurting people in their time of need. Persons seeking support from a Stephen Minister are invited to contact the church office at 239-334-8937.

Ongoing Events

Out-to-Lunch Bunch: Join them on the fourth Sunday of each month following the 10:00-11:00 worship service. **Bridge Players:** One group meets the first Tuesday afternoon of the month at 1:00 p.m., while the other meets on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Both groups gather in room 206. Prior registration is needed for new members; call Fran Leeper at 481-2336.

Primetimers

NOV. FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	EXPENSE
\$55,905 Actual	\$54,188 Actual
\$ 7,500 Reserves	
\$81,915 Budget	\$53,967 Budget

YEAR TO DATE

Expenses have exceeded income by \$24,012. The current balance on our loan is \$707,221. A complete financial report is available in the church office each month. If you would like to know your giving record to date, please call Barry Metzger. Thank you!

Peace River Presbytery Women's 20th Annual Gathering

Saturday, February 13, 2010

Hosted by Covenant Presbyterian Church

Sign-in, Fellowship & Refreshments at
9:00-9:30 A.M. (Lunch at 12:15 P.M.

Following the Gathering)

Cost: \$7 Per Person

The theme for the Gathering is "God will continue to do wonders among us!" Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Jessica MacMillan from Western Reserve Presbytery in Ohio. The Gathering will also feature special inspirational music. All women are encouraged to join us!

Registration forms are available in the church office or online at covpcfm.com (see a link to the Women's Gathering in the left column).

Concert Series

February 12 • 7:30

ETA3

Emily Thomas, Flutist

Tomoko Nakayama, Pianist

Alexey Gorokholinsky, Clarinetist

Named after a luminous and spectacular star-forming Nebula in our galaxy, ETA3 is a classical trio comprising American flutist Emily Thomas, Japanese pianist Tomoka Nakayama, and Russian clarinetist Alexey Gorokholinsky. (ETA initializes the first letter of each musician's first name.) Formed at The Juilliard School during spring of 2006, ETA3 strives to communicate the intellectual and emotional elements of life by broadening the audience's perspective through a varied range of repertoire. The trio will play a romantic program to initiate your Valentine's Day weekend.

February 26 • 7:30

Vegas, Soul, Rock 'n' Roll

Ron Gartner

A high energy, highly entertaining songfest that takes audiences from the fingersnappin' sounds of the Rat Pack, Bobby Darin, and Tony Bennett to the great ballads sung by Perry Como and others to the Rock-'n'-Rollin' sounds of Bandstand and Motown! From Sinatra, Dino, and Sammy to the fabulous Bandstand songs of the 50's and 60's to Motown, there's something for everyone in this fantastic Vegas-style show. Ron Gartner means Great Entertainment!

All concerts, which are held in Covenant's sanctuary, are presented free to the community. No tickets are required.

God Bless You In The Coming Year!

"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."—Deuteronomy 31:8



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Sunday Mornings at Covenant

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9:00 • Sunday School
10:00 • Traditional Service
Nursery Care Available

