



The Covenanter

MAY 2020

Holy Leadership, Batman!

I know that when the time comes to elect our leaders, whether they be church leaders or leaders to government, we are supposed to think of people that we would most trust to lead us through a crisis. But I wonder how many of us actually do this? I wonder how many of us consider who is most equipped to handle the world falling apart, or if most of us just assume that it's safe to assume all will be status quo? Up until these last few months I think I fall into the latter category. I don't know what the nominating committee discusses when they sit in their room, choosing elders and deacons who will serve the church in the years to come, I've sat in on very few meetings. But what I do know after watching the church in the midst of this pandemic is that every nominating committee who has elected these current deacons and elders deserves our immense gratitude for finding us such spectacular leadership!

The deacons have been hard at work since all this began. They've been making calls, checking in on members, and praying with those who want prayers. They have been remembering above all else that we are a community of believers and in that spirit they have been working tirelessly to keep that community alive and thriving even through our separation. Their faithfulness to their work and calling has allowed the elders to focus on their own job of running the church. Session, who usually only meets once a month, has really and truly risen to the occasion so that they are riding out this storm side by side with the church. We've been meeting via *Zoom* for at least once a week since this mess began. That's five meetings in the time that we would ordinarily have two. Five meetings where new information is discussed thoroughly. Five meetings where decisions are made. Five meetings in a time of social distance is no small feat.

I hope you will join me in saying "thank you" to our elders and our deacons, to Fred Murray, our amazing Clerk of Session, and to nominating committees, both present and past, who have brought us such great leaders. They may not have planned for a Pandemic when they were nominated and elected, but they have and continue to serve us faithfully through it. I hope you'll thank the staff at WPPC for training themselves in new technologies quickly and efficiently, and continuing to work even if it looks a little different than it did before!

In addition, we want to thank our PNC. It's easy in a time like this to take a break, to put certain things on the backburner and say we'll get to it when we're done. It's even easier when you are at the end of a long process and know you need that break! But our PNC never once stopped. They continued to meet week after week until they brought forth a worthy candidate. In the next month, Rev. Darren Bess will begin his work here at WPPC. I feel confident in saying that starting his call here will be unlike any other beginning he's ever had. There is no instruction manual for Ministry during COVID-19. But I have every faith in our PNC that their work is complete. I have faith in our leadership, and I have faith that God has called Rev. Darren Bess to us in this time for a special reason. I have faith that our leadership will continue to rise to the occasion and in the months to come it will grow more obvious than ever!

Emily

FEEDING THE HOMELESS



Normally, about 50 members of our congregation would have spent time this week making preparations to serve dinner to about 300 guests at the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida. In April we weren't able to prepare and transport the food and people downtown to serve the meal. Because of the Covid-19 crisis the Coalition had to cancel our opportunity to serve for now. Since the Coalition itself must now provide all the meals for guests, the Compassion Committee has voted to send \$340 each month to the Coalition. That's the amount we would normally spend to purchase ingredients. WPPC continues to support the good folks providing services and being served at the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida. To learn more about the services provided by the Coalition for the Homeless, go to <https://www.centralfloridahomeless.org/>.

FISH (FRESH IDEAS START HERE)

It's time to go FISH!

On August 22nd 2020, WPPC has been asked to host the annual Presbytery event, FISH is an annual event that features workshops for educators, pastors, youth directors, elders and church members. To make this event successful, the Leadership Development Committee of Central Florida Presbytery is asking for your help. We need help with greeting and guiding visitors to our campus, snacks, parking, registration, setting up and cleaning up. If you are able to assist in any way or have questions, please contact Will Lawrence at 386-631-6634 or williamalawrence@cfl.rr.com.



VBS Help Needed



VBS is upon us and the planning team is hard at work organizing this wonderful summer event in the life of our church. This year, we will be hosting a 4 day VBS from June 29th-July 2nd and we hope to get enough volunteers for a capacity of at least 50 children. In order to know how many children we'll be able to host, we are coming to you first! Please, if you can assist with this wonderful program in any capacity, we have a job for you! Please get in contact with Emily Wasser at emilyw@winppc.org and help us continue with this wonderful outreach to the community!

Also, please mark your calendars for the first ever Family Vacation Bible School! This program will take place July 20th-22nd in the evenings from 5:30-8:30 PM and will be for everyone! Parents, singles, children, couples, and grandparents are all welcome! At the moment no volunteers are necessary; we simply want you to be able to mark your calendars for this new and fun opportunity!

SPECIAL OFFERING - MAY 10TH CARING FOR GENERATIONS

For more than 50 years Florida Presbyterian Homes and Westminster Communities of Florida have been connected to the church through a covenant agreement, first with the Synod of Florida and then with the Synod of South Atlantic. Due to generous contributions by Presbyterian congregations, residents at Florida Presbyterian Homes and Westminster Communities of Florida can count on the Benevolent Assistance program for support. This safety net assures residents that they will continue to remain in their homes and get the care they need, even though they have outlived their financial resources. They can experience an increased lifespan due to better health and medical care; higher costs of healthcare and prescriptions, and the economy have presented a whole new set of concerns which could be overwhelming without assistance from those who are more fortunate.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:40:

“As you did to one of the least of My brethren, you did to Me.”

WPPC will gratefully accept your special offering on Mother’s Day, May 10, 2020. All of the donations we receive will be sent to the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation.

Thank you for your caring support of this ministry. ~ Compassion Committee

PENTECOST OFFERING – MAY 31ST AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, bringing us a new life. With the Spirit’s coming, we no longer need to settle for business as usual but can know the transforming, redeeming love of God that makes the impossible “possible”. This special offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people by inspiring them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church and the world to build a life of faith--all in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Pentecost offering is one of the four Special Offerings of the PC (USA) during the church year. The first 60 percent of our donations will be sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency (25% to assist young adult volunteers serving communities; 25% to guide youth ministries; and 10% to advance child advocacy). The remaining forty percent of our offering will be used on behalf of children-at-risk in our own community. For the third consecutive year we are supporting Thornwell’s local mission, the Building Families Program, a community-based child abuse and neglect prevention program providing in-home counseling services with tools to thrive and not merely survive. The program is hosted at Maitland Presbyterian Church. Rebekah McConn is the Master’s level Family Specialist who began working in our community in July 2016. She works alongside families experiencing crises--any situation that disrupts the peace and harmony of the family. Anyone may refer a family to this program, even the family itself. Call Rebekah at 407-906-9087 or email her at Rebekah.mcconn@thornwell.org with your questions.

With your support, these agencies can help meet the needs of these vulnerable neighbors. Thank you for your prayerful consideration to support this most worthy cause on Sunday, May 31, 2020. The church office will accept your donations by mail or on-line.

Remember to wear RED to celebrate Pentecost! ~ The Compassion Committee

The church office is accepting checks for all offerings.
You can also donate on online at winppc.org/giving.
Be sure to note which offering you are contributing to.

*Our sympathies are extended to
the family and friends of those who
have recently passed.*

*Frank Hellinger
5/14/1930—4/2/2020*

*Chuck Johnston
2/15/1933—4/12/2020*

DEACON'S DEN



Magnolia blossoms are starting to bloom on our front yard tree. Their luxuriant perfume hangs thick in the air. But the summer rains haven't greened the lawn yet. Weeds push up through the sandy soil looking bedraggled and ill-used. Yet the flowers persist in making appearances and taking their bows. The magnolia tree intends to display its springtime glory regardless of the dryness of the soil. Its roots sink deep.

Faith may falter in hard times. Faith may shine through darkness. God's love greets us when we turn our hearts to Him. His love persists.

May God hold us gently in His hands as we face uncertain times, as the world appears dry and barren and bereft of hope. May we hold fast to the knowledge that He is ever with us during all our trials and joys. May we shine like bright flowers in God's eternal light.

HAPPY
*Mother's
Day*

NOTES FROM THE MISSION FIELD

The Presbyterian USA Mission Office has recalled all over seas missionaries back to the United States in response to the COVID 19 virus—leaving our missionaries with their hearts and concerns with their people in their respective countries.

Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell were about to leave for Brazil when they received word that they needed to stay in the United States. When an elderly member of their church died they wished that they could be there to support their fellow church members.

Dan and Elizabeth Turk faced major challenges in their return and are still separated. When COVID 19 was declared a global pandemic Elizabeth was hospitalized and was extremely ill. While she did not have the virus, she has several health issues that place her at high risk. Elizabeth planned to leave in late March but the president of Madagascar announced the airport would suspend all international flights the day before she was set of leave. Fortunately, she was able to get a flight a day earlier and travel to the USA. Once here she went into a quarantine to protect her parents.



Dan and Elizabeth Turk have been mission co-workers in Madagascar for more than 23 years. (Photo by John Martin)

Dan left for a dedication of a new fruit center in Madagascar that he and others had been working on for some time. Driving back from the dedication he learned that the first case of COVID 19 had been confirmed in Madagascar. As a result, all Sunday services were cancelled, and the capital city was placed in lockdown. People coming in on some of the last international flights to the capital were testing positive. With help from the US embassy and other embassies, he was able to leave on an Ethiopian Airlines flight organized by the South Korean Embassy on March 31.

While Dan and Liz are grateful to be here, they worry about their partner churches and colleagues because the health system in Madagascar is limited. The virus was introduced by tourists from Europe but now is growing from contact and exceeds 100. While people are taking the measures of isolation to heart, they need to work in order to live. The economy of the country is in a nose dive and there is an increasing problem of people not having enough to eat. The basic economy of the country is tourism and this is now nonexistence.

Dan and Liz and both worry about the impact of the virus on the environment and health. People can cause deforestation as they cut down trees to make charcoal to make money. The health system was also problematic and is not able to address a pandemic and protect its health workers and population.

World Missions and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance are helping by offering grants to partners in this time of need. Liz is part of the health review team. Contributions can be sent to eh Peace and Global Witness Offering (through Presbyterian Church USA) to support this effort.

This Child Here (Odessa, Ukraine) has had to cancel their peace camps this summer and their foster care training due to the virus.


We will keep you posted on other developments with our mission partners.

~Compassion Committee

Bible Quiz


While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following “proper” protocols. Who defended them?

- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. Jethro
- D. The Lord




Answer: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)

Thank You!





Thank you for the cards and kind thoughts after the death of my brother. I really appreciate each of you.

~Ardyth Austin



Goodbye,
Best Wishes
& Thank You!

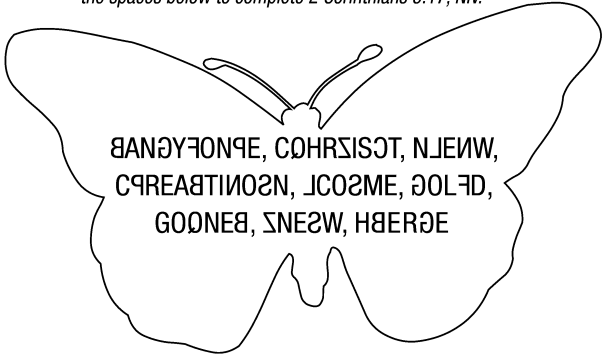
Our thanks and best wishes to Assistant Director of the Preschool, Suzanne Lomas, and Lead Teacher, Karen Grady, who are retiring from the Preschool. Both Suzanne and Karen will be greatly missed.

TransformationPOWER

Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,
God transforms us from old to new.

Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.




BANGFONPE, COHRISOT, NLEW,
C9REABTIOQN, JCO2ME, GOLFD,
GONER, SNE2W, HBERGE

Therefore, if _____ is in _____,
the _____ has _____:

The _____ has _____,
the _____ is _____!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ's, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here



WPPC continues to need your kind and generous financial support. As we are sure you are aware, even though we are not able to hold Sunday services the church's expenses continue. Gifts may be made by mail or on our website – www.winppc.org/give. As always, we are extremely grateful for your support that upholds the entire life of the church.



Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool has been closed since spring break, and at press time we are still awaiting a date when OCPS and we will safely reopen. WPPP teachers have been working to provide home connections, rich educational experiences and socialization for their students while they are staying at home.



Teachers of our youngest students have been sending emails containing newsletters, lesson plans, links to favorite class songs and books being read aloud, and many ideas for hands-on activities that encourage learning while helping to keep little ones busy. They also stay in touch via their class Dojo and Shutterfly.



Three year olds love their virtual class meetings where their teachers read stories, play games and hold discussions in which the children take turns sharing their ideas. All threes' teachers are using email to provide their lesson plans and related learning activities. Teachers have also been communicating individually with their students via FaceTime chats, personal emails and mailing handwritten notes and cards.



Our VPK teachers have been sharing learning experiences through email, Dojo, Shutterfly, Seesaw and text messages. All of our VPK classes are conducting online group meetings. Teachers have been providing lots of activities and songs to aid in teaching the letter of the week and other important lessons.



WPPP's dedicated art teacher created videos of art projects and a Pablo Picasso Pajama Arty Party that were posted on the preschool Facebook page. Our after school ballet enrichment teacher created a instructional ballet videos for the girls to do at home.



We hope that during these challenging times we can be a small source of happiness in the lives of our preschool children and families. We miss everyone so much and look forward to being back in the classroom! As of today school closures will continue through April 30, and may be extended.



If you are interested in enrolling for 2020/2021 school year, we do have a few spots available and will resume tours as soon as we are able. Information on the preschool can be found on our website winppc.org/preschool, and photos of preschool activities and events are posted on our Facebook page. Please send email inquiries to our Director, Tricia Wilson, at triciaw@winppc.org.



Below: WPPP teacher Mrs. Aida Nassar reads to her 3 year old class during an online group meeting.





MAY

Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Nancy Appich Shaheed Mohammed Marna Williams</i>	2 <i>Marianna LaRue Lori Pantoliano</i>
3 <i>Connie Joy Tallungan</i>	4 <i>Lurene Braswell Lee Corbett Ben Reece</i>	5	6	7	8 <i>Lily Boyle</i>	9 <i>Dan Kittinger</i>
10 <i>Susan Davis Lindsay Seel Woody Storey</i>	11 <i>Jodi Tassos</i>	12	13	14	15	16
17 <i>Almeda Dean</i>	18	19 <i>John Connor Will McCurdy Fred Murray</i>	20 <i>Phil Ettinger Scott Frazier</i>	21 <i>Jessica Davidson Annette Weidner</i>	22	23 <i>Marti Hicks</i>
24 <i>Flossie Hellinger Griffin Seel</i>	25 <i>Taffy Carpenter</i>	26 <i>Ryan Yadav</i>	27 <i>David Dodd</i>	28 <i>Crystal Fern</i>	29 <i>Alan Davis Lorna Wellmeier</i>	30
31 <i>Stephen Boyle Margie Meliza</i>						



The Rev. Dr. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Emily Wasser, Associate Pastor
 Carolyn Achenbach, Director of Operations/Accountant
 Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant
 Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant
 Justin Chase, Director of Music
 Penny Walsh, Organist
 Tricia Wilson, Director of Preschool Programs
 Susan Davis, Director of Handbells & Children's Music
 Kenny Lovelace, Sexton

SESSION

2020

Doris Anguish
 Marilyn Bryant
 Rick Davis
 Steve House
 Larry Seel
 Bob White

2021

Phillip Anderson
 Lisa Dreasher
 Jayne Leach
 Shaheed Mohammed
 Peter Rice
 Nelson Roe

2022

Theresa Coker
 Bonnie Gaughan
 Fran Morrissey
 Sean Tallungan
 Michelle Trahan
 Jay Van Hook

DIACONATE

2020

Ardyth Austin
 Cathy House
 Caroline James
 Jim McKinney
 Dennis Schmalstig
 Matt Straub

2021

Mike Galyean
 Reta Jackson
 Julie Kent
 Curtis Koon
 Sara Van Arsdel
 Jeanne Vinci

2022

Susan Davis
 Jane Munns
 Rachel Myers
 Christine Rich
 Meg Ball Thomas

MISSIONARIES

Rev. Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell - Brazil
 Jenny Bent - Dominican Republic
 Mark Hare - Haiti
 Dr. Dan & Elizabeth Turk - Madagascar

For Covenanter or Sunday bulletin submissions, please fill out a publicity request online at <http://winppc.org/publicity-request/> or contact Cindy Mitchum at cindym@winppc.org or 407-647-1467.