

**2017
February
COURIER**



“Mission is to the church, what fuel is to fire...”

Inside this issue:

<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	2
<i>Prayers</i>	2
<i>50th Anniversary</i>	3
<i>Birthdays</i>	3
<i>PW News</i>	4
<i>New E-Mail addresses</i>	4

February is the month designated for Valentines. Fortunately for us it is also the month of Souper Bowl of Caring; Dr. Danny Zirpoli's concert and Stephen Ditchfield's musical return to Covenant. We have much to look forward to this month as we continue to realize that God is up to something good!

We will be celebrating as we approach our Fiftieth Anniversary on July 7, 2017 with a spectacular Texas Style Bar-B-Que Picnic! There will continue to be special events during worship, after worship and during the week throughout this time of celebration, so bring a neighbor and enjoy the journey.

When you see a new face in worship, don't be bashful about making a friend. Only a few of us come to worship to be anonymous. Most people don't come to join the church, but to discover a worship experience. We aren't about welcoming 'visitors' but sharing our faith in Christ's love for the world. It is a great thing to build a friendship based on shared experiences of faith, hope and love. The next fifty years of the church's worship, fellowship and mission may depend on our willingness to embrace, inspire, nurture and serve, as we are reminded by the banners in the sanctuary every Sunday morning.

Danny Zirpoli's afternoon concert promises to be a rare treat. Not only is Danny a spectacular pianist with professional experience in classic, jazz, contemporary, classic and Christian works, but he is also an entertainer. He knows that you and your friends will come to the sanctuary on Sunday, February 12 at 3 p.m. to have some fun, enjoy some food and experience the best of Danny's lifetime of music. Those of us who know Danny well and have attended his concert last year—know that when you and your guests arrive, you will leave with a sense that God is truly up to something good.

The Ditchfield Family has been a fixture in the Sarasota community for generations. Stephen will bring an enthusiasm for worship and a contagious warmth that has been shared with tens of thousands of people in sanctuaries, civic auditoriums, fairgrounds, concert halls and international competitions! He will make February 19 another highlight in our Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration.

Come be a part of the good, God can do through you and his church!

With you in His service, Mike Mansperger

***Dr. Danny Zirpoli
in Concert
Sunday,
February 12, 2017
3:00 P.M.***

***Intermission
with Refreshments
Served.***

***Mementos Given
to Guests
at the end of
Concert.***

Treasurer's Report Contributed by James D. Pratt, Co-Treasurer

Our budget for 2016 was \$259,000. There were 61 pledges to the general fund for \$150,760 and 1 pledge to Missions designated funds, \$600. Actual income and expenses for the year:

Pledges	\$149,659.00
Non-Pledge	25,144.23
Loose Offering	6,354.01
Facility Use	15,820.00
Misc. Income	793.76
Endowment Funds	<u>49,000.00</u>
Total Income	\$246,771.00
Expenses	<u>\$245,568.25</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/16	\$ 1,202.75

Our commitments to mission remain strong with dedicated workers giving time and energy, supplies and prayer to help those in our community, our state and around the world. Our mission giving through Presbytery amounted to \$13,139.00. Our budget called for \$10,991.00. The rest was donated because you chose to give to special needs through Joy Offering (\$530), One Great Hour Sharing (\$786) and Souper Bowl Sunday (\$832).

Our congregation contributed an additional \$600 to the Good Samaritan Fund and \$1,106 was directed solely to local mission work. Working together, giving together, may we spread the love of God wherever we go.

Prayer and Thanksgiving *Jeanne Wright, Pam, our mission co-worker in Turkey, Alan and Lorraine Hester, Aram Papazian, Howie Werstiuk, Martha Speidel, Judy Bremer and Linda Holley for their service on Session, Thelma Cook, Ronnie Crain, Don and Jean Bates, Doug and Muriel Maxwell, Anna Fox, Fritzie Burcham, Dona Whitehouse, Pat Sacks, Linda and Ron Page, Noreen Deming, Betty LeSage, Dorothy Kirkpatrick, Mary Clark, Leone McLenon, Harold and Carol Paul, Gloria Lemme, Marilou Swenson, Fred and Ellen Hummel. We look forward to those who arrive in worship during the winter season. Ed Walter is moving to Charleston South Carolina and would appreciate your prayerful support in the coming months as he adjusts. We welcome David Stasney to our staff as the new Director of Music and lift up Danny Zirpoli, Lea Krikorian, Katie Sahyvers and her staff: Virginia, Gail, Iven and Susan in the new year.*

The mission of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant is to embrace, inspire, nurture and serve through Christian faith, God's world, the community and ourselves. In living our faith, our vision creates an atmosphere where; people are connected to Christ's love through prayer, worship and fellowship; lifelong growth in faith and knowledge is practiced; spiritual, emotional and physical needs are met through outreach; the varieties of gifts of all people are recognized, celebrated and engaged.

**50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
“GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING GOOD”**

GOAL: “To strengthen the church spirit of our existing membership
And to attract new church members.”

Committee for the 50th Anniversary has been working hard to finalize plans for the upcoming celebration.

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and to attract new church members.”

We had our Kick-Off on Sunday, January 15, 2017 starting with a solo by Beth Cantin-Straubel followed by the first sermon of three of a Special Sermon Series, “The Church Gifted” by Reverend Mansperger. This was followed by a Pancake Breakfast Brunch in the Fellowship Hall with 75 persons in attendance .

Thanks to the Committee as well as other members of the church who came forward to help put this breakfast together.

February: Music Month Celebrating 50 Years of Music

- February 5** Souper Bowl Sunday – Chili & Clam Chowder
 Hosted by: Judy Kraut

- February 12** 3:00 PM Piano Concert Featuring Dr. Danny Zirpoli
 3:30 PM Intermission with Light Refreshment Served
 under the Covered Breezeway
 4:00 PM Concert Continues
 Mementos Given to Guests at End of Concert

- February 19** Stephen Ditchfield, Soloist
 Finger Food & Light Refreshment
 Hosted by: Linda & Richard Lipinski

- February 26** Pancake Breakfast
 Hosted by: Pastor Mike and Sue & Gene Schaefer

Birthdays in February

- February 11: **Thomas Miner** February 25: **Mildred Conley** February 27: **Marilou Cannici**
- February 27: **Jean Bates**

Presbyterian Women News

Contributed by Onie Morse, Moderator

Five women. Ronnie Crain, Onie Morse, Marilou Cannici and Norma Cunningham, from our church will attend the Annual Gathering at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church on Saturday February 4th. The theme is Living the Fruit of the Spirit. We will be inspired to carry on our mission for the coming year.

We invite you to come to our **Gathering at 6 p.m. dinner meeting on Friday February 10** with Allison Kummery from Selah House as our speaker. This deals with sex-traffic in Sarasota and what is being done to combat it. A sign-up sheet is posted and we will be selling tickets on the next two Sundays for \$10.00.

We thank all of you who participated in the stove project for Guatemala as well as those who supported other missions by purchasing our cookbooks which are still available each Sunday in Fellowship Hall.

Our Knit n Sew meets every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 11 with many going to lunch afterward. We welcome your participation even if you can't knit or sew although we do especially urge you to join us if you do.

March 1st is Ash Wednesday when the PW will again prepare the **Mary Thorn Stone Soup Dinner** before services. It is a church program and urge your participation in donating vegetables for the soup.

Reminder: Please turn in all material to be published in the Courier by the 15th of the month.

New e-mail addresses: As of January 1, 2017 new e-mail addresses have been set up for the following:

Church: pcc@presbyteriancc.org

Event Registration: pccevents@presbyteriancc.org

Rev. Mansperger: mike@presbyteriancc.org

Lea Krikorian: lea@presbyteriancc.org

Katie Salyer: Katie@presbyteriancc.org

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The Reverend Michael R. Mansperger, Pastor

Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.