

2009



## Covenant Fall Retreat



The Covenant Fall Retreat is almost here! Join us September 11–13<sup>th</sup> at Holston Camp, where we will be exploring the multiple aspects of Stewardship, particularly in how we can give back in non-monetary ways. We will directly experience some of that giving back approach with part of the weekend devoted to on-site work projects at Holston. Options will be provided for less physically strenuous and child-friendly activities to accommodate all abilities.

Sign-up forms (including pricing which has been slightly reduced from 2008 rates) are being distributed in the Sunday bulletins or are available at the church office. The final deadline to confirm your spot is Sunday, September 6. Please contact Lauri Zembower with any questions.



### Calling all Elders- both active and inactive!

Monday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Looking for a more hands-on way of serving the Church and ministering to people? Have you ever considered taking communion to our homebound friends? It is a special opportunity to make a visit, to connect them to their church community, and to nurture them in their faith through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

There will be an orientation session for all interested elders on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We'll learn some basic visiting/pastoral care skills and how to extend the Lord's Table beyond the sanctuary.

For more information or to sign up, call Sharon at 282-5324.



### WNL! 2009 – 2010 Year Begins

#### Traffic Notice Reminder:

The WNL! Program for children and youth is scheduled to begin on September 9<sup>th</sup>. To keep the kids safe while they are playing outside, traffic patterns into the parking lot will be changed. The front entrance from Sunset Drive will be blocked each Wednesday at 4:45p until 7:30p. Please enter and exit from the Sundale/Franklin Square entrance. This change will keep traffic out of the crosswalk and our kids safe. Thanks!

#### Help Wanted!

Meal Teams are being formed for WNL!, and WE NEED YOU!!! If you have not already been called to help cook, it doesn't mean you are not wanted. We need lots of help to feed a bunch of kids. This is an important but fun position. You get to hang out with the youth of the church and gab in the kitchen with friends and church members. It's a great way to get to know people. Each Meal Team is made up of about 4-5 people who cook and serve dinner on Wednesday evenings once a month from 5:00p to 7:30p. 2-1/2 short hours once a month! How easy is that? And, remember, it is FUN! Call Andrea Sutter or Melissa Hopkins to sign up for this IMPORTANT AND FUN position.



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Covenant Courier

# Presbyterian Women

We welcome nominees to receive the  
Honorary Life Membership Award  
presented annually by  
Covenant Presbyterian Church since 1997.

Please give a brief outline of accomplishments or  
contributions of this individual to Amy Hecht,  
chair of the committee to choose the recipient.

Friendship Circle will meet on  
Tuesday, September 8th at 7:30 p.m.  
Hostess: Helen Davis, Co-Hostess: Betty Maletich  
7 Okeechobee Drive, J.C., 929-2085  
To carpool, meet at the church at 7:10 p.m.  
Bible Study: Lesson 1



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## Chime Choir rehearsals to begin soon!

Rehearsals will begin the week following our church retreat, Sunday, September 20th. We encourage any person who is interested in becoming part of this program to be in touch with our Choir Director, Mr. Randy Adams.

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## Stewardship Committee

### Stewardship is Ministry!

Usually we think of stewardship as a season occurring once a year. A time when we send out pledge requests, ask members what amount of money they will commit to the church for the coming year so that the Stewardship Committee, working with the Session, can establish a budget. We hear a lot about tithing; our share; etc. Stewardship is more than finances.

If we look at a dictionary definition of the word, we find:

stew-ard-ship; the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

As Christians, are we not entrusted with the care of God's world in all of its aspects? We use this in relationship to the environment and to money, but how do we apply it to people? How do we apply stewardship to our daily lives? How are we stewards of God's Kingdom here on earth?

The Book of Order for our denomination states:

"Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world. Tithing is a primary expression of the Christian discipline of stewardship."

"Those who follow the discipline of Christian stewardship will find themselves called to lives of simplicity, generosity, honesty, hospitality, compassion, receptivity, and concern for the earth and God's creatures."

"The Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. In worship the people are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ, are claimed and set free by him, and are led to respond by offering to him their lives, their particular gifts and abilities, and their material goods."

Earlier this year Sharon had a series of sermon's on Spiritual Gifts. At that time, I asked Sharon, "How do we translate spiritual gifts into stewardship?" I believe that we need to rethink our Time & Talent program and re-examine our ministry of Stewardship. A new approach will allow the membership of Covenant to determine their individual spiritual gifts and then we can provide a way to equip people to use those gifts in the ministry of the church. In equipping the church, the emphasis moves from one of recruiting for jobs to one about our passions for ministry and how to incorporate that into our discipleship within the church.

A general framework of how this would look might be:

1. Determine our individual spiritual gifts.
2. Determine what we as individuals and as a congregation are passionate about.
3. Seek ways to assist each other in using our gifts in the most effective places or areas of ministry.

Over the coming months, the Stewardship Committee and Session will be looking at how this can be accomplished.

Hal Hunter, Co-Chair

# August Session Highlights...Fred Dulin for Evelyn Kemp

- July revenues were approximately \$17,000 with \$21,000 in expenses. Higher expenses were expected as July was a three-payday month.
- Hal Hunter asked that we be cognizant of where committee meetings are held in the church facility. Those rooms near and adjacent to the office maintain a close temperature to the office; if we hold meetings in those rooms, we likely will not have to use additional air conditioning or heat.

**Congregational Life Committee :**

- Retreat planning is progressing. Stewardship in your community will be the theme and the signup should be available soon. The committee is looking into use of the van for those who may go for only Saturday.
- Church night supper will begin again in October.

**Christian Education Committee :**

- The search for Youth Ministry Leader is progressing well with two interviews being held on August 9<sup>th</sup>. The Youth Support Team is starting to come together nicely with three volunteers, so far.
- Sunday school begins Sunday, August 16.

**Property Committee :**

- Bob Sobol conducted the semi-annual roof inspection. Only minor repairs are needed now, but it is likely we will need a new roof for the sanctuary in a few years.

The September Presbytery meeting will be held Sept. 1 at Holston Presbytery Camp. Hal Hunter will advise if he can attend as Covenant's delegate.

Sharon led a significant discussion on the role of the elders, using text from the Book of Order and from an article written by Gradye Parsons. The conversation focused on the ministry of the elders rather than the managing of the business of the church. The elders committed to prayerfully consider their roles and to continue to explore what should be done differently by the individual elders and the collective session to better serve in this ministry.

**Address Update:**

**James Freeman  
324 4th Ave.  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130**



## Memorial Gifts

~ ~ ~ ~  
Given in Memory of:  
Myma Slawson  
By

Dan & Patricia Bates  
Matt & Kathi Cary  
Roger & Amy Hecht

Given in Memory of:  
Walter Adler  
(Chris Hillhouse's Father)  
By

Matt & Kathi Cary

Given in Memory of:  
John Willis  
(CB's Brother)  
By

Hugh & Peggy Underwood



## Treasurer's Report

### July

<b>Income to General Fund</b>	
July	
<b>Actual</b>	<b>\$17,107.80</b>
<b>vs. Budgeted</b>	<b>\$21,038.15</b>
<b>Expenses from General Fund</b>	
July	
<b>Actual</b>	<b>\$21,081.78</b>
<b>vs. Budgeted</b>	<b>\$21,038.15</b>
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	
<b>General Fund</b>	
<b>Actual</b>	<b>\$133,174.96</b>
<b>vs. Budgeted</b>	<b>\$147,267.17</b>
<b>Year to Date Expenses from</b>	
<b>General Fund</b>	
<b>Actual</b>	<b>\$147,364.01</b>
<b>vs. Budgeted</b>	<b>\$147,267.17</b>
<b>The 5-cents a Meal Offering</b>	
<b>for July was \$193.53.</b>	

To Our Covenant Family:

By now Lynnea is well on her way to Belfast. We are so thankful to all who have shown their support in so many ways to Gwen & I, and especially Lynnea as she goes where she feels led. Thanks to you who helped raise her, because she is truly a child of Covenant.

Thanks,  
Hal, Gwen & Lynnea

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Johnson City, TN 37604

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Fax: 423-282-5346

[Http://www.covenantpresjc.org](http://www.covenantpresjc.org)  
Email: cpcjctn@mounet.com



The New Interpreters' Dictionary of the Bible, Vol. 5  
Donated in Memory of John Willis by Lattie & Jeter Collins  
This completes the set of this very thorough and up-to-date resource.

No Ordinary Angel: Celestial Spirits and Christian Claims About Jesus  
Donated in Memory of Myma Slawson by Jerry & Sally Nagel  
This is a scholarly but very readable examination of the meaning of  
angelic appearances in the scriptures, compared to their functions in the  
contemporary "New Age" culture.

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## Mission & Outreach Committee

### Peacemaking Offering

Be with us on October 4 as we celebrate World Communion Sunday and receive the Peacemaking Offering. On this day we join with Christians around the world to celebrate the unity that we find at the Table of the Lord. We also receive the Peacemaking Offering to support the efforts of our congregation, presbytery, synod, and denomination to spread the peace of Christ.

Our congregation will use 25 percent of the Offering for peacemaking activities. The other 75 percent will help our partners in the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly as they work on behalf of God's peacemaking throughout the world.

**Due to the overwhelming response from you during our summer Good Samaritan 10-10-10 drive, the Mission & Outreach Committee will be providing brunch for you!**

You are invited to

### Brunch

**on Sunday, September 20, 2009**

At 12:10 p.m.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the morning service.

We are excited and extremely proud to be doing this because of the extra effort you put forth.

The June food collection was 206 pounds plus \$190.<sup>00</sup>. In July, the food collection was 170 pounds plus \$195.<sup>00</sup> **AND 50** bags of school supplies! (The August collection amounts will be announced in September's bulletin.)

The need is still there...Please continue to think 10-10-10.