

2010



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Covenant Courier

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

How are the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING gifts used?

Each of three programs – Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program – receives 32 percent of the offering; the remaining 4 percent goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program for its work on homelessness and affordable housing.

Please join with people from thousands of churches in nine different denominations, reaching out together as one great Christian community to share with and care for Jesus' sheep.

*This year One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received April 4th,
Easter Sunday.*

InterFaith Hospitality Network—What is This?

Covenant participates in the InterFaith Hospitality Network, a multi-denominational group of churches who work together to offer temporary housing in churches to homeless families. Last year, 81 individuals in 25 families (including 49 children) participated in the program. Fourteen of those families were moved into permanent housing last year. Typically 10-15 individuals are in the program at any time. If you do the math, that means the average family stays in the program about 8-10 weeks, going from church to church each week - not an easy life.

Covenant partners with Lone Oak Christian to assist 1st United Methodist Church in housing the families for a week each quarter. Covenant helps by providing dinner and volunteer hosts for the evening and overnight on Mondays and Tuesdays during our assigned weeks. The list of people who have volunteered from our church is extensive - Jim Amstutz coordinates the evening and overnight hosts and Helen Davis coordinates the food preparation. If you would be interested in participating, please contact either Jim or Helen. Our next assigned week is the week of April 4-10.

Jim Amstutz

Church Night Supper becomes After Church Lunch

Have you heard? Church Night Supper is moving. Can you believe it? Yes, Church night supper is moving to a new time but we are still in the same location. Beginning in April, the 11th to be exact, Church Night Supper will be After Church Lunch. At 12:30 lunch will be ready. No need to hurry out to the restaurant. Lunch will be just down the hall. Congregational Life will be in charge of the entree and we are asking that the congregation bring either a side dish or dessert. Don't worry, if your wonderful dish needs to be served hot, we will take care of it. If you have any questions, please call Laurie Zembower or Andrea Sutter.

Youth Mission Trip **Yard Sale** on April 24th

Be on the lookout for announcements about the upcoming Youth **Yard Sale** on April 24th. Donations will be accepted beginning after church on Sunday, April 18th. During the week preceding the **Yard Sale**, large donations can be scheduled to be picked up by Andy and his rag-tag band of Youth Volunteers. There are also plenty of opportunities to volunteer. Please direct all questions to Andy, and keep an eye out for more information!

ATTENTION NURSERY WORKERS

Thanks so much to everyone who volunteers to work in our Nursery. As you know, one of the changes that took place this year is that we no longer have a nursery worker on staff. That means that when you are responsible for the nursery, you are the ONLY one who is responsible for the nursery. So please keep that in mind – plan on being in the nursery from 10:45am and, if no little ones show up, staying until 11:05, just in case. We have had visitors with young children lately and it's important that we continue to offer nursery support.

Help Needed

BAKE A CAKE

The Melting Pot teams needs a cake baker. Would you be willing to bake a cake for the first Monday of each month?

Even if you plan to be out of town that weekend, the cake can be baked ahead and frozen in the church freezer. If you could fill this vacancy, please phone (282-5628) or e-mail (bennerds@embarqmail.com) Sharon Benner. Thanks so much for considering this way to serve.

PLANNING WORSHIP TOGETHER

Would you like to be a part of a team that meets regularly to plan the worship services? Would you like to use your creative gifts to help the congregation lift up their voices in song, understand what God is saying to us in scripture, and joyfully respond to God in a deeper way? Do you love music, or writing, or have ideas for visual elements and symbols that might help us engage in worship more fully?

Liturgy, by definition, is the work of the people, not just the minister. If you think you might enjoy being on a team that designs our worship services you are invited to come to an exploratory meeting on Tuesday, April 27th at 7:00 p.m. Older youth are welcome to come and share their gifts, too. No experience necessary!

GRAB YOUR PAINT BRUSH

IT'S A PARTY!!! A painting party for the interior of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Campus House. Saturday, May 1 at 8am and you are invited. We have been gifted with paint and supplies. Our very own Linda Dulin picked the colors, all we need are the hands to make it happen. Lunch will be provided.

New in the Library

Understanding Difficult Behaviors. Practical help for caregivers of dementia patients.

Donated by Thursday Morning Ladies' Bible Study in memory of Doris Lewis.

The Future of Faith. Harvey Cox traces Christian history from "the age of faith" through "the age of belief" (emphasizing creeds) and foresees emerging "the age of spirit." He contends that the latter bears significant resemblance to the early church before it was "captured" by hierarchy. A very readable and thought provoking book.

Donated by Doris Sanders in memory of Myma Slawson.

New Classes Beginning:

Inquirer/New Member Class

An Inquirer/New Member Class will be offered from April 18th- May 16th during the Sunday School hour. If you would like to learn more about the ways you can serve God, worship, engage in meaningful fellowship and grow spiritually here at covenant, come join us! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please call Sharon.

Young Adults

Would you be interested in being a part of a young adult Sunday School class, or a small group that meets at some other time during the week (or month)? If so, give Sharon a call at the church @ 282-5324.

Area Opportunities

Check out the Bulletin Board across from the Youth Room for the following opportunities:

- Artist in Residence Program at Holston Camp
- Spring Wildflowers 2010 at Holston Camp
- 2010 Camp Schedule at Holston Camp
- Arts, Recreation & Worship Conference at Montreat Conference Center
- Keystone Community Garden

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts have been given in memory of Sharon Miller's mother, Dorothy Stanfiel by:

Nancy & Bob Hart
Janet & Harry Powell
Anne & Gary Smith

THANK YOU

I was so surprised and honored to be recognized and presented with an Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women. Thank you to the women who selected me for this honor, and to all of my Covenant Family!

Sincerely,
Gwen Hunter

To the people of Covenant:

Thank you for the abundance of cards, gifts and, most of all, your loving prayers before, during and after my recent surgery. You're a very special group of people. I miss you all and can't wait to get back to work.

Love, Tina

A big "THANK YOU" to Deborah and Alan Lewis for all their work keeping the office and computers going while Tina is on medical leave.

March Session Highlights

Note to Session Members: The April Meeting will be at 4:00p on April 18th.

- Treasurer's report: Expenses for February, 2010 totaled \$19,491 and revenue was \$16,851, leaving a deficit for the month of \$2,639.
- The Presbytery Council announced major budget reductions due to reduced congregational contributions. One result of the reductions is that the youth and young adult ministry's full-time staff position was suspended. The Council is in the process of appointing a task force to review the vision and mission of Holston Presbytery and determine which programs, ministries, and committee activities are most relevant.
- The session approved the annual statistical report. A copy of the report is available from the clerk.
- Our administrative assistant, Tina Simon will be out for four more weeks following surgery. Help is needed answering phones, etc in the church office. Let Sharon know if you can help.
- A woman is needed to serve on the Human Resources Committee.
- Worship in the Park will be at Meredith Pavilion in Winged Deer Park this year.
- There will be After Church Luncheons instead of Church Night Suppers in April, May, and June. Congregational Life will host and provide the entrée; the congregation will be asked to bring desserts and side dishes.
- A Marriage Enrichment series is tentatively scheduled for the fall.
- Church work day is scheduled for 3/29/10 beginning at 7 AM.
- Mowers are needed for the mowing team.
- The Spudfest held for Lynnea Hunter's YAV mission raised \$1,017.
- Campus ministry is holding a painting party on May 1 beginning at 8 AM. Volunteers are needed to paint the inside of the building.

February Treasurer's Report

**Income to General Fund
February**
Actual \$16,851.80
vs. Budgeted \$20,734.58

**Expenses from General Fund
February**
Actual \$19,491.48
vs. Budgeted \$20,734.58

**Year to Date Income
General Fund**
Actual \$40,239.04
vs. Budgeted \$41,469.16

**Year to Date Expenses from
General Fund**
Actual \$48,019.95
vs. Budgeted \$41,469.16

**The 5-cents a Meal Offering
for February was \$128.00.**
Mortgage stands at \$89,313.25

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

603 Sunset Drive
Johnson City, TN 37604

Results of the Circle Survey:

You have probably noticed the sign-up sheet in the narthex which has given women of the church the opportunity to indicate whether an evening or a daytime meeting time would suit more women's schedules. The survey was prompted by the request of many in the current circle to have a daytime meeting; however, no one wanted to exclude those who work or prefer an evening time. As a result of the number who signed up for a day meeting time, the Friendship Circle will begin meeting next fall on the second Tuesday afternoon (probably 1:00) but the time can be decided when the circle begins to meet. A second circle will meet on second Tuesday evening. Even though the number who prefer to meet at night is small at the present, we hope that others will contact Sharon Benner with questions and decide to join! We were delighted to have 6 women who have not been in the Friendship Circle previously to sign up for Circle membership.

At Circle meetings, we discuss issues of particular interest to the women in our church, have a Bible study using the materials provided by the Presbyterian Church USA, and enjoy the each other's fellowship! This group is not ever "closed," so we welcome you to join us in April or May or when we begin our new season in September. We will be ordering the Bible Study materials in June, so let us know if you would like for us to include you in the number we plan for.

Betty Maletich is chairperson of the Friendship Circle.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Friendship Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 13th at 7:30 p.m.

Hostess: Margaret Sullenger, 116 Chadwick Circle, 952-0291

Co Hostess: Helen Davis

To carpool, meet at the church at 7:10 p.m.

Bible Study: Lesson 8