

2011

April



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Covenant Courier

Spring Clean-Up Day—Saturday, April 9

The Property Committee has planned another “Church Spring Clean-Up Day” (beginning at 7:00 a.m. and going until everyone gets tired). We will have some cleaning materials available, but everyone is encouraged to bring supplies and materials, such as cloths, buckets, brooms, step-ladders, etc. Tasks will be split into groups (window cleaning, floor cleaning, landscape bed cleaning, etc.), so come prepared to work on a particular task, or several. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a Property Committee member. It will be great to have the Church building and grounds looking their best before the Easter Sunday service. So please find the time and volunteer for this important Church activity.

Holy Week & Easter at Covenant

Palm Sunday (April 17)

Morning worship at 11:00

Maundy Thursday (April 21)

As Jesus’ disciples today, we will gather together at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper, worship and the sacrament of communion.

Good Friday (April 22)

A dramatic service of readings, silence and music of the Taizé community, recounting the Passion of Jesus. As the light of Jesus’ life is extinguished, the light in the sanctuary is slowly extinguished as well. Begins at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Easter (April 24)

Sunrise Service

7:00 a.m.

courtyard & Sanctuary
(dress warmly)

On Easter, rising with the sun, will be the worship of Christians worldwide. To celebrate the risen Lord, we will meet at 7:00 A.M., as we lift our worship to the skies. This year, the Youth of Covenant will be leading us in worship. Please join us in the courtyard for this special and intimate celebration of the living Christ.

Traditional Worship Service

11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

A nursery will be available for all events.

If you would like to place an Easter Lily in the Sanctuary for Easter, order forms are available in the bulletins and in the Narthex. (Also see back page of this newsletter.) Easter lilies are \$12.00 each. ALL ORDERS MUST BE IN BY APRIL 17th.

Christian Education Committee

Our Covenant Playground is an invitation...

Or it might be. An invitation to those families who visit looking for a church home, those who live in the surrounding neighborhood, or those who are only passing through but looking for a warm, welcoming, safe environment that says, “Welcome to our church!”

Our Covenant Playground is a ministry...

Or it should be. An Outreach and Christian Education ministry that reaches children and those with children, helping them to learn about life in God’s Kingdom.

Our Covenant Playground is nurturing...

Or it could be. Nurturing for the children who attend our WNL & Youth programs or who just want to play after church.

Our Covenant Playground could be many things...

And it is up to each of us to make that happen! We continue to raise funds to rehabilitate and enrich our playground facility. Take a look at the drawing of the new playground in the Narthex and consider giving generously. Funds of \$12,000 will allow us to rebuild the playground in a way that would make it all of these things (an invitation, a ministry, nurturing) and more. Thank you!



Message From the Pastor

As most of you know, I have been looking in on my father, who has Alzheimer's, several times a year for the past few years. During my visit in January, it became clear to me that he now needs more care than I can provide with this arrangement, so he will be moving to Johnson City at the end of April. As you will see from the Session Highlights, the elders have graciously allowed me a leave of absence for a month or so in order to get him moved and settled in here, and all that will entail. Our own Rev. Dr. Barb Edema will be filling the pulpit in my absence and assuming other pastoral responsibilities as well. Covenant will be well cared for, do not worry!

I have been very grateful for the kindness and generosity you all have shown me all along this difficult journey, and for the wisdom you have gained from your own experiences caring for someone with Alzheimer's. This road would be much more difficult to travel without having you by my side throughout it.

Peace and grace to you all.

Sharon

SpudFest '11—Youth Fundraiser—10 April 2011

On Sunday, April 10th, immediately after the worship service, the Youth of Covenant Presbyterian Church will host a lunch of Potatoes 'N Fixin's, Salads 'N Dressing, and Desserts 'N Satisfaction. This event will be an opportunity for the congregation to show support for the Youth's trip to the Montreat Conferences this summer. Eleven of our young people have dedicated part of their summer vacation to travel to North Carolina to attend this conference.

This desire for fellowship, willingness to be challenged, and dedication to faith is characteristic of the entire Covenant Presbyterian Church congregation. Let us show our support for our young people by pledging monetary support, purposeful prayers, and big appetites! (Pause for dramatic effect...prepare to read the cheesy finishing tag line) Let the Yum begin!



Third Thursday Dinner

Covenant's Third Thursday Dinner will not be held in April due to the Maundy Thursday service at church. Please join us there for worship and a light meal. We'll kick things off again in May at our next restaurant choice.

Young Adult Monthly Gathering...Lynnea Hunter

The Covenant Young Adults are (really, this time!) meeting the second Friday, April 8th for dinner and fun at Machiavelli's on Fifth St. in downtown Bristol, TN. We will gather there at 7.00 p.m. for pizza, so come hungry! If you're a young adult (anyone between the approximate ages of 25 and 40-ish) then come join us! Please let me know if you plan to come, so I can let the restaurant know.

Call 828-266-1917 or email at lynneahunter@hotmail.com. So, to recap, Young Adults at Machiavelli's in Bristol at 7.00pm on Friday April 8th. See you then!

Presbyterian Women

Friendship (Afternoon) Circle

Tuesday, March 12th at 1:30 p.m.

Hostess: Helen Davis

7 Okeechobee Dr., J.C., 929-2085

Lesson Eight

Joy (Evening) Circle

Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Hostess & Discussion Leader: Anne Smith

239 N. Gilmer Park, J.C., 929-1604

Lesson Eight

Mission Message

During the months of March and April all donations to Good Samaritan Ministries will receive a proportional match grant from the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation. Their program is specifically designed to combat hunger and both monetary contributions and direct food donations qualify for the match. Food donations are valued at \$1/lb and are weighed when Alan Lewis delivers our monthly collection to Good Samaritan. Please make a special effort to contribute during these two months.



New in the Library...Sally Nagel

The Case for God by Karen Armstrong

A history of mankind's impulse to seek the sacred.

In Quest of Jesus

A readable search for the real Jesus, informed by an understanding of the culture and politics of his time.

Egyptian Pharaohs: 3,000 Years of Dynastic Rule

Description of each Pharaoh and many color pictures of Egyptian antiquities.



March Session Highlights...by Cheryl Rice (for Evelyn Kemp)

- Income for February was \$16,206.72 with expenses of \$21,596.30. Thus the surplus is down from about \$17,000 to \$12,000. A major expense was the electric bill which was \$2,527, which, hopefully, is the last of the large heating expenses. Mortgage now stands at just under \$60,000 so the interest payments will be below \$300 per month. We have 22 payments remaining.
- The pastor requested a short unpaid leave-of-absence roughly during the month of May to tend to her ailing father. Rev. Barbara Edema has agreed to fill the pulpit and will be available for other pastoral duties as needed.
- Human Resources – there are two new members on the committee, Harry Powell and Donna Bridwell.
- Worship – Funds are still needed for new communion serving pieces.
- Congregational Life – The After Church Luncheon on April 10 will be a SpudFest to raise money for youth projects. The Fall Church Retreat will not be at camp this year, and it will include a mission component.
- Christian Education – The confirmands and their families will have a session-sponsored breakfast on Saturday, April 23rd.
- Property – Church-wide clean-up will be Saturday, April 9th.
- Mission and Outreach – Plans are being made for the expansion of WNL to include IHN children and youth.
- It was unanimously decided to not fill Shirley Hines' unexpired term on session.

Thank you to the People of Covenant

To Covenant,

How can we thank you enough for all the cards, well wishes—and especially the PRAYERS that came from a loving congregation to help in Bob's recovery. Time and again we have realized how fortunate we are to be part of this loving caring congregation. Thanks to God for all of you.

Bob & Betty Maletich

(from the family whose house burned)

Thank you so much. You all have been such a blessing. Thanks for all the nice things. God Bless!

Love,

Jennifer, Dave & family

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

“Sharing Brings Joy. To Others, to God and to Us. Following the January earthquake that struck the island nation of Haiti, through a shared grant project, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program provided seeds and tools for thousands of Haitian farmers to grow enough food for hundreds of thousands of displaced Haitians. This project allows Haitians to participate in their own recovery and makes use of indigenous seeds and grain. In the United States, Self-Development of People has partnered with community leaders in Detroit, Michigan, to use vacant lots to cooperatively grow and produce foods and provides a base for long-term sustainable income and community redevelopment. One Great Hour of Sharing Offering makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Through your gifts and the gifts of other congregations across the church, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will continue to be a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed and experience God's abundance in surprising ways.”

Sara P. Lisherness, Director
Compassion, Peace, and Justice

This year's One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received April 24th, Easter Sunday.

February Treasurer's Report

**Income to General Fund
February**

Actual \$16,188.00

vs. Budgeted \$20,967.33

**Expenses from General Fund
February**

Actual \$21,596.30

vs. Budgeted \$20,967.33

**Year to Date Income
General Fund**

Actual \$57,448.03

vs. Budgeted \$41,934.66

**Year to Date Expenses from
General Fund**

Actual \$45,199.63

vs. Budgeted \$41,934.66

**The 5-Cents a Meal Offering
for February was \$89.00.**

Mortgage stands at \$59,658.99.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

603 Sunset Drive
Johnson City, TN 37604

Phone: 423-282-5324

Fax: 423-282-5346

[Http://www.covenantpresjc.org](http://www.covenantpresjc.org)

Email: office@covenantpresjc.org

******Are you on our e-mail list but would still prefer printed copies of this monthly newsletter???******

If so, PLEASE let us know—(423) 282-5324 or office@covenantpresjc.org.

Beginning in May, only those without e-mail access and those who request it will automatically receive printed copies.

Church Website

If you enjoy reading the newsletter and want to keep up with church news and events (and have internet access) but have no need for a printed copy, visit our website - www.covenantpresjc.org - and click on "Newsletter". (Newsletters dating back to April 2009 are posted.) Sermons and bulletins are posted as well, under, well, "Sermons and Bulletins"! Look to the right and click on "Calendar" to view (yes, you've got it) the calendar of events for the church. Questions? Comments? Please contact Tina in the office!

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

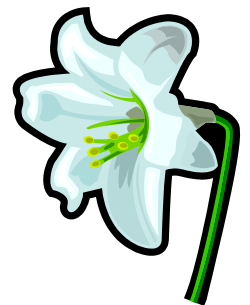
If you would like to place an Easter Lily in the Sanctuary for Easter please complete this form and place it, along with your payment, in the offering plate. Note "Easter Lily" on your check made to Covenant Presbyterian Church. Easter lilies are \$12.00 each. The deadline for orders is April 17.

Name of person ordering: _____

Given in Honor of: _____

Given in Memory of: _____

Given By: _____



Total Lilies Ordered: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash _____ Check _____