

2010

December



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Covenant Courier

## The River Christmas Project

It's that time of year again already! It's time to start thinking of how to make Christmas a little better for those who have little, and share the love and compassion that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has shown us.

Each Christmas, for several years, our church has adopted The River and the women that are in need of their services. This Christmas we are doing the same, only in a different way than we have in the past. The River is throwing a Christmas Party for 50 ladies and has asked us to supply special Christmas presents for them. Each gift would cost around \$10. You may purchase more than one gift. Our goal is 50 gifts. If we exceed our goal, of course, there are many more women that need our love this Christmas. When purchasing these gifts, please keep in mind that this may be the only Christmas gift some of these ladies will get. Some gift suggestions would be jewelry, purses, wallets, scarves, totes, umbrellas or perfume. These are just suggestions. I am sure you will think of very nice things also.

Please drop off the gifts in bins located at the front of the church in the Narthex or in Fellowship Hall, along with a box the gift would fit in. We will wrap the presents at After Church Lunch, December 12<sup>th</sup>, and celebrate the love and generosity of our church.

If you would like to donate to The River also, they are always in need of toilet paper, paper towels, bleach, fabric softener sheets, stain remover, garbage bags, creamer, coffee, and dishwashing liquid.

If you have questions, please contact me at 610-0531 or [melissahopkins@embarqmail.com](mailto:melissahopkins@embarqmail.com).

Thank you,  
*Melissa Hopkins*



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### After Church Lunch—Sunday, December 12, 2010

Please join us for December's After Church Lunch following worship on December 12<sup>th</sup>. We will wrap the presents that have been collected for the women of The River after lunch.

Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert that you would like to share with the congregation. If your dish needs to be kept warm or even heated at the last minute, someone will be in the kitchen by 9:30 a.m. to receive your dish and your instructions. We look forward to sharing this fellowship opportunity with you! If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Sutter or Lauri Zembower.

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### Christmas Caroling—Sunday, December 19



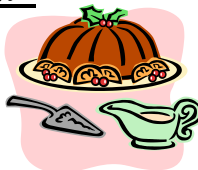
Meet at the church (we will leave at 5:00 p.m. sharp) to carol at various members' houses and nursing homes. After caroling we will bring snacks to share at the Amstutz home.

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### Christmas Open House at the Amstutz Home



Sunday, December 19 from 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.  
611 Sharon Drive, J.C.  
Everyone is welcome!



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### *Poinsettia Order Deadline is Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>!!!*

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas season, please use the order form in your bulletin or on the table in the Narthex or call the church office (282-5324) and talk to Tina. Cost is \$10/each.

## Presbyterian Women

### Friendship (Afternoon) Circle

The December meeting of the Friendship Circle will be a Holiday Luncheon on **Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.** We will meet at the home of Janet Powell (417 Shade tree Way, JC), and we welcome all of our regular members as well as any others who would like to join us for lunch!

Please call Janet at 610-0445 to let her know that you are coming and what you will bring.

After lunch, we will study Lesson Four in "Journeys Through Revelation."

### Joy (Evening) Circle

Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Hostess & Discussion Leader: Melanie Jones  
201 Sterling Springs Drive, J.C., 282-8928

Lesson Four

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### Invitation from Cheryl Rice:



Ladies, you are cordially invited to a "Baby Brunch" in anticipation of Jerri Watson and John Miller's (son of Sharon and David) baby daughter expected sometime in January. Please join us in the church library on Saturday, December 11, at 10:30 a.m.



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### Human Resources Committee

Each year we are given the opportunity to provide monetary gifts to the Elder's Fund, the majority of which is used for Christmas honoraria for our fine staff. Our congregation has always been very generous in providing donations to the fund. Our members are appreciative of the dedication of our staff members, and this is a wonderful opportunity to show that appreciation.

We ask that each member consider making their donations as generous as possible and, since it would be helpful for the staff to have their gifts well before Christmas, to make their donations as soon as they can. Just mark "Elder's Fund" on your checks and place in the offering plate or send to the church office. We know we can count on our membership, as we always have.

Thanks so much,

*Max Wilson*, Chair

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### Christmas Joy Offering

On Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, we will receive the Christmas Joy Offering. This offering helps students at racial ethnic schools and colleges develop their gifts and find their calling to serve God through serving their community. This offering also helps support the unmet needs of families who have responded to God's call by giving their lives to the mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Some of those needs emerge during their service, others after their retirement. As we celebrate Jesus' love in our lives this Christmas, our gifts bear joyful witness to the power of that boundless love that changes lives.

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### THANK YOU!!

We thank you so much for all your cards and prayers, and for the meals you've brought to us. We miss being with our church family and hope to be able to attend services and join in congregational activities again very soon. We appreciate your continued prayers.

Thank you,

*Arlene & Harold Wilkinson.*

## November Session Highlights...Evelyn Kemp

- Fall clean up day was productive, although there was a low turn out of workers.
- Two of the four applicants for the Music Director position have auditioned, and the others will audition in the next few weeks. The plan is to make a decision by early December.
- The Congregational Life Committee is now meeting at NOON on the first Tuesday of each month. New members are needed. If you would like to be included, contact Andrea Sutter. (NOTE: December's meeting will be on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Revenue for October totaled \$17,620 while expenses were \$19,100, increasing the deficit for the year to \$14,500.
- Removal of the tree border has become increasingly urgent and the Property Committee is in the process of getting bids for the project.
- The Alternative Gift fair is scheduled for November 21.
- There are 20 children from eight families participating in the Angel Tree project this year.
- The Stewardship Committee made a great presentation of the needs and opportunities after the church lunch on November 14. If you would like a copy of the presentation, please contact Tina in the church office.
- An all-church open house is being planned for December 19 at the Amstutz' home.
- The annual project for The River is scheduled for After Church Lunch on December 12.
- Thanks to the middle school Sunday school class for preparation of activity bags for worship.
- Max Wilson will be taking a temporary leave of absence from the Session for health reasons.

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### Address / Phone Updates:

**George & Bobbie Carroll**  
Home Ph: (540) 308-5250

**Max Wilson**  
2902 Bristol Hwy.  
Johnson City, TN 37601

**To Committee Chairs:**  
**2010 Committee Reports**  
**for the Annual Report need to be**  
**e-mailed to Tina**  
**before **January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011.****

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### Stewardship—2011 Pledges

Thanks to all of you who have committed to Covenant by turning in a pledge for next year. Your timely effort is appreciated.

If you have not turned in a pledge, now is the time that it is most needed. We are working to establish next year's budget and need to know how to prepare.

If you don't normally pledge but give on a regular basis, consider making a change this year. It really does make a difference in what we as a congregation can accomplish if we know in advance there will be funds to support future opportunities.

Thank you, *Shirley Hines & Hal Hunter*, Co-Chairs

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### Memorial Gifts

**GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:**

**BOB SOBOL**

**BY**

CB & Rose Willis

**GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:**

**MIRIAM BROWN**

(the Willis' son's mother-in-law)

**BY**

CB & Rose Willis

### **October Treasurer's Report**

**Income to General Fund**  
**October**

**Actual \$17,620.98**

**vs. Budgeted \$20,734.58**

**Expenses from General Fund**  
**October**

**Actual \$19,140.39**

**vs. Budgeted \$20,734.58**

**Year to Date Income**  
**General Fund**

**Actual \$194,254.82**

**vs. Budgeted \$207,345.80**

**Year to Date Expenses from**  
**General Fund**

**Actual \$208,777.87**

**vs. Budgeted \$207,345.80**

**The 5-Cents a Meal Offering**  
**for October was \$82.00.**

**Mortgage stands at \$69,300.97.**

## 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](mailto:office@covenantpresjc.org)

### Thank You from Holston Habitat for Humanity

Dear Friends,

We cannot thank you enough for helping with the Owens family project located on Bacon Branch Road in Jonesborough. For more than eight weeks folks hammered, nailed, lifted, toted, SWEATED and worked together to make the Owens' dream a reality. Habitat's success is a direct result of the time, energy and dedication of our volunteers and donors. By your own generous contribution, you set a wonderful example and demonstrate the power we have to change the lives of people living in substandard housing. We would like to take this opportunity to say a heart-felt "Thank You!" We look forward to working with you on another Habitat project soon!

In Partnership,

Michellane Bierbaum, Office Coordinator



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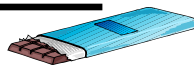
### SHEPHERD PLAN REVISED

Because we have a number of new members, we have found some new Shepherds. This has necessitated some shuffling of our list of Shepherds and their flocks. A few changes were made, and the new lists will soon be available. This is a reminder to all Shepherds to contact your flock and be sure that everyone knows who his or her shepherd is.

If you feel that serving as a Shepherd is something that you would like to do, please get in touch with Helen Davis or Janet & Harry Powell. There is always a need for more Shepherds, and it is a great personal service to others.



### Equal Exchange Coffee Price Changes



The prices of all Equal Exchange coffee products are increasing. Here at Covenant, new prices will take effect on January 1, 2011. The factors behind these changes include rising costs for farmers and a decrease in the availability of coffee beans because of extreme weather conditions. Stock up now on all your favorite coffees and chocolates!