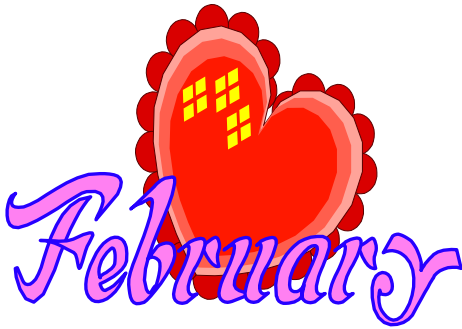


2010



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Covenant Courier

Lent:

Something Old, Something New (Not just for weddings anymore)

This year the season of Lent will begin and end with our traditional observances, but we will be doing something new midweek.

Lent starts this year with Ash Wednesday on February 17th, and we will begin our season of penitence and preparation for Easter with a worship service at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. The imposition of ashes will be offered. We will come together again during Holy Week for a Maundy Thursday service at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, and again at 6:00 pm on Good Friday (in the sanctuary) for a Tenebrae service.

For the remaining five weeks of Lent we will be offering a new opportunity to grow closer to both God and your neighbor with small group Bible or topical studies. These groups will meet in homes, and are designed to be a time for you to grow spiritually, share your lives with a few Covenant friends, pray, and enjoy a meal together. Here are the groups we have so far:

Celebrate the Risen Christ, a lectionary-based Bible study. Meets in the home of Harry & Janet Powell on Tuesdays at noon. Study the scripture that will be preached on Sunday. A light lunch will be served.

Bread in the Wilderness; Spiritual Famine or Gospel Feast. Find food for your journey through the wilderness in the stories of God's faithfulness. Meets in the home of Cheryl Rice at 6:00 Tuesday nights. Supper will be potluck or chef's choice! Group size is limited to 5.

Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity – a video-based study about finding contentment and blessing through simple living. Meets in the home of Jim & Sharon Amstutz Mondays at 6:30 pm. Supper will be a 'simple' meal of soup or stew and some good bread.

Prayer; Does it Make any Difference? Based on the book by Phillip Yancy, this study will look at why we pray and how to pray, and what happens when it looks like our prayers aren't being answered. Meets in the home of Christian & Lauri Zembower at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays.

Look for sign-ups in the Narthex at the church, or call the church office. Group size is limited to 8 (except for Cheryl Rice's). If the groups fill up and there is still interest, we will try to put together another group or two. If you might be willing to lead and/or host a group, please call Sharon.

TWO CIRCLES NEXT YEAR

Beginning in the fall, Covenant's Presbyterian Women, who currently meet as the Friendship Circle on the second Tuesday evenings from September through May, hope to add a group who meet in the afternoon. The hope is that this choice of meeting times will make it easier for others to participate. The groups at both meeting times will welcome additional members.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. The Circle meets in homes and discusses Presbyterian Women's issues on the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels as well as their concerns at Covenant and in the community. In addition to the fellowship, the main focus of the meetings is the Bible study published by the Presbyterian Women of PCUSA. Please sign up to indicate your choice of meeting times so that both groups can be organized to begin meeting in September.

2010 Session

You may have noticed in recent months that a few of our committees are being ably-chaired by someone besides a member of the session. This change has been just one part of an ongoing conversation the session has been having about what it means to be an elder, what the work of the session is, and how we can all best use (and identify!) the gifts that God has given us to serve the Church.

In the New Testament elders were the ones who led the church once the apostles established it and moved on. They taught, led worship, took care of the sick and poor, and oversaw the discipline of the members. In other words, they did ministry. This is the same vision that our Book of Order has for elders. They are set aside for the practice of ministry along side the pastor, and overseeing the life of the church as a whole. Together they prayerfully discern the will of God for the church, lead the people in mission and encourage them in worship and spiritual growth.

The session is excited about this 'new' way of serving (which is really quite old) the church. We will be taking on more responsibility for visitation and care, and looking at some of the broader needs and concerns of the congregation. Each committee will have an elder liaison, but the work of many of the committees will be overseen by someone who has demonstrated gifts for leading and administration, as well as a passion for the committee's work.

Maybe the very last two questions we were asked at our ordination sums up our work: Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love? Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture and service...and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

And we said, "With God's help, we will."

Committee

Christian Education:

Congregational Life:

Human Resources:

Mission & Outreach:

Property:

Stewardship:

Worship:

Clerk of Session:

Chair

Fred Dulin

Lauri Zembower

Max Wilson

Jerry Nagel

David Jones

Shirley Hines & Hal Hunter (co-chairs)

Sue Sheffield

Evelyn Kemp

Session Liaison

Margaret Sullenger, Andrea Sutter

Melanie Jones, Charles Trifiletti

Bob Maletich, Christian Zembower

Melissa Hopkins

Communion Changes

You may have noticed some changes in the way communion was served in January.

In conversation with the Session, the Worship Committee recommended these changes to accommodate the needs of some in the congregation whose immune systems are suppressed and risk exposure to illness when communion is served by intinction. In order to minimize contact with the bread, baskets of pre-cut bread will be offered, and a tray of individual communion cups will be available as well as the chalice. We ask that you reserve those individual cups for those with health concerns.

We recognize that this will not fully prevent all exposure to colds, flu, and other illness. We pass offering plates each week, and communion plates those months when communion is not served by intinction. Even opening the doors to the church and sanctuary poses a risk. Please help us keep our friends and church family members healthy by washing hands well and often. Consider keeping a bottle of hand sanitizer nearby if you have a cough or runny nose.

Hopefully cold and flu season will be over soon, but until then your help and understanding in the matter are appreciated.

Good-Bye to ConneX

It is with regret and sadness that the decision has been made not to continue the Sunday evening ConneX services into the new year. Although it was only held once a month, ConneX required the time, energy and creativity of a number of people each month, and we have found that we are unable to sustain that workload on an on-going basis.

This does not mean, however, that we have lost sight of the reasons we began an alternative worship service in the first place. We still see the need to more fully engage our youth, and to find ways to be more expressive and creative in our worship. To that end, we are exploring a variety of ways to address those needs, including involving more youth and congregation members in the planning of worship (as we did in Advent).

Church Night Potluck Supper

Sunday, February 14, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Please join us for food, fun and fellowship. This month we will enjoy a game based around famous couples (i.e., Romeo & Juliet, Kermit & Miss Piggy,...).

Presbyterian Women

Friendship Circle will meet on

Tuesday, February 9th at 7:30 p.m.

Hostess: Gloria Lewis, Co-Hostess: Helen Davis

377 Villa View Point, J.C., 282-2220

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

Bible Study: Lesson 6

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV)

SAVE THE DATE!



Sunday, February 28 for a visit to Belfast, Northern Ireland! We'll chat with Covenant's Missionary, Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Lynnea Hunter. She'll join us electronically for a SpudFest in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

(SpudFest is a Covenant tradition. Enjoy a meal of baked potatoes and salad. All donations will benefit the YAV mission.)

Dear Covenant Family,

Failté! Hard to believe that I'm half-way through my year of service and adventure already! The time certainly flies. My work continues to be great; the youth at Fortwilliam and Macrory are marvelous. We had a very successful youth service back in November, and we have retreats and services planned for the spring. We even have a joint youth rally-type event planned with Glengormley Presbyterian and Whitehouse Presbyterian, the two churches that my house-mates Nathaniel and Phen serve at (respectively.) That's happening later this month, and we're really excited! The youth band leads music in the Sunday service at least once a month, and I've just started a new, weekly Bible study open to the whole congregation. We're studying Ephesians, and it's going well. Work at the WAVE Centre continues to be educational, as well. I've taken on more of a leadership role with the Women's Lunch Club, so I'm responsible for not only helping to make sure that the lunch gets served, but I also coordinate programs and trips and am the go-between for the centre and the group. It's still new, but going well. The other YAV's and I will enjoy our second retreat the first week of February, and it's hard to believe that I will also celebrate my 26th birthday here on the Emerald Isle. (Hmmm...I wonder if I can request 'Come, Labor On' as the anthem for that Sunday? Ha! [If you don't know this story please ask Jeter Collins, Helen Davis or Janet Powell. They'd love to tell you!]) I'm having a wonderful time here, and will have many stories to tell for years. The best way to get some of my stories now—along with the notes from the youth Sunday message I preached—is to visit my blog, www.serviceandadventure.blogspot.com. I also post links there to web albums of photos. My camera goes literally everywhere I do, so I have some great shots. Thank you again for your continued love and support!

Slainté!

Lynnea

Translations: Failté: (fail-chay;) Gaelic for 'welcome' or 'hello'; Slainté: (slahn-chay;) Gaelic for 'cheers.' (This is traditionally a toast, but 'cheers' is also a term for saying 'goodbye.')

Lynnea's mailing address:

28 Skegoneill Drive

Belfast BT15 3FY

The Mom-of-the-YAV Report...

Our only daughter, Lynnea has been serving as a missionary in Belfast, Northern Ireland for 4 months now. Being a parent is always an interesting journey. I'm often asked how I'm doing with her gone. The short answer is, "Great!" That sounds strange, I suppose, but I'm doing well because she's doing well and is happy, healthy, challenged, and growing in knowledge of herself and her Lord.

Seeing the photos she posts on the Internet, talking to her live on Skype, e-mailing, and even receiving the occasional phone call makes it easy to share in her experience and to satisfy that Mom-craving to know that my baby's ok. And now Hal and I are looking forward to visiting her in April and celebrating Easter in Belfast!

Thanks for supporting your missionary in Belfast. By your loving interest, prayers and financial support, God's peacemaking work is being advanced in Belfast, and in one more Young Adult Volunteer.

Peace of Christ to you,

Gwen

Look for the NEW, REVISED Church Directory (dated February 2010) on the table in the Narthex.
If you would like to have an electronic copy of this directory in Excel OR Word format – please specify –
(and have not already requested one from me) please let me know!

If you requested one but have not received it by Wednesday, February 3rd, please let me know!

Thanks, Tina. (cpcjctn@mounet.com)

With Gratitude...

To each and every member of Covenant:

Thanks so much for all your many expressions of caring and concern, both during my recent knee surgery and also after my dad's death in October. After my surgery each get-well card, each phone call offering to drive me somewhere, the prayers for healing, and all the words of encouragement and good wishes meant so much to me, and certainly helped with my rapid recovery (And thank goodness for Bobbie Carroll's special crutches, which helped me retain my sanity while I hobbled around!)

When my dad passed away quite suddenly, I was left with feelings of emptiness. Since my folks weren't church-going people (my dad was an atheist) and they don't have any strong community affiliations either, my mom decided against having any formal service to mark my dad's passing. I was struggling to find some meaning for my dad's life, grim illness and death, and some closure for myself. So, it was very comforting to come home and find the outpouring of sympathy you, my church family, bestowed upon me during this sad time. The condolence cards and personal notes held words of wisdom and comfort for me to cling to. Your hugs comforted me, your willingness to listen gave me peace, and your gifts in my dad's name honored him and uplifted me. I am so blessed to be a member of such a caring church, and I feel very grateful to all of you for showing me God's love through your actions!

Linda Dulin

Dear Covenant Congregation,

Thank you so much for your love and support during the past several difficult weeks. Your cards, phone calls, and food have meant so much to Jackie and me. We have found comfort in God's love and in your prayers.

God's blessing to you,

Steve Bader

I want to thank the congregation at Covenant for the gifts I received before I left. Words can't begin to express how much I will miss you all and how blessed I have felt to serve as your pianist. It was a wonderful opportunity and I enjoyed it immensely. I will send postcards and snowy pictures!

Love,

Amy G. Jones

E-mail: amygoog@aol.com

Mailing address: P.O. Box 962, Homewood, CA 96141

(Note: See Amy's postcard on the bulletin board in the Narthex!)

THANK YOU to all you came to un-decorate the church after the holidays. THANK YOU, ALSO, to the "box fairy" who had all the boxes distributed to the proper locations before we arrived.

~ ~ ~

THANK YOU to all the members of the congregation that contributed to the Mitten Tree!

Communion Servers and Ushers

Thank you to those who have already signed up to help serve communion and to be an usher!

There are still vacancies available, so don't be left out – sign up today!

(for information on communion, please call Helen Davis at 929-2085;

for ushers, call Jim Starr at 928-4108)

January Session Highlights...Evelyn Kemp

- New elders Margaret Sullenger, Charles Trifiletti, Max Wilson, and Christian Zembower were welcomed to the session. They will be ordained and installed January 24, 2010.
- Treasurer's report: Expenses for December, 2009, totaled \$19,479 and revenue was \$25,339, leaving a surplus for the month of approximately \$5,860.
- Gary Smith will continue as Treasurer for 2010.
- There may be some delay in e-mail responses from Reverend Amstutz because she is suffering from numbness in her hand from a pinched nerve.
- \$2,785 was collected at the Alternative Gift Fair.
- Donations and wrapping of gifts for The River were a big success.
- There are currently two applicants for the musician position.
- ConneX services are being discontinued.
- The session expressed gratitude to the following elders who completed three years of service in January: Butch Carr, Karen Mabe, Tony Madden, and Phyllis Thompson.

Gentle Reminder:

The deadline for the weekly bulletin is the Wednesday prior to the service.

The deadline for the monthly newsletter and calendar is on the 15th of the prior month.

Please keep these deadlines in mind to make certain that all of your announcements are made in a timely manner and your events are posted on the calendar.

Thank you!!!

Gifts & Honorariums

Given in Memory of:
Walter Schneider
(Linda Dulin's father)

By
David & Brenda Fox

Given in Memory of:
Bill Bader
(Steve's brother)

By
Gary & Anne Smith

Given to the Chime Fund in
Honor of:

Jim & Sue Crandal I
Roger & Amy Hecht
Hugh & Peggy Underwood

By
Carolee Mabe

The 2010 Flower Chart

is on the bulletin board in the hall outside the sanctuary.
Please sign up if you would like to place flowers in the
sanctuary to honor or remember someone
or to mark a special occasion.

(PLEASE NOTE that ordering instructions
are posted next to the calendar.)



Treasurer's Report December

Income to General Fund
December

Actual \$25,399.47
vs. Budgeted \$21,038.15

Expenses from General Fund
December

Actual \$19,479.10
vs. Budgeted \$21,038.15

Year to Date Income
General Fund

Actual \$242,500.07
vs. Budgeted \$252,458.00

Year to Date Expenses from
General Fund

Actual \$240,266.32
vs. Budgeted \$252,458.00

The 5-cents a Meal Offering
for December was \$163.00.

Mortgage stands at \$93,899.23
with projected payoff date of
January 2013.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

603 Sunset Drive
Johnson City, TN 37604

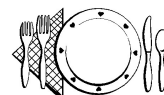
Phone: 423-282-5324
Fax: 423-282-5346

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

Gentle Reminder:

Let's stay comfortable AND be good stewards of the electric bill!!!
Use the UP/DOWN ARROWS on the thermostats to adjust the temperature!!!

Annual Progressive Dinner



It's time again for the Annual Covenant Progressive Dinner, which will be held this year on Saturday, February 27. This program is for 20 couples to progress through four courses, with appetizers beginning at 5:00 p.m., followed by salad, main course, and dessert. "Couples" can be made up of a combination of friends, married spouses, a mother and daughter, or anything else that adds up to two people.

Here is how it works: Sign up for the course of your choice in the Narthex (it's suggested that those living farthest from the church serve appetizers in their home and those that can't serve in their home serve dessert at our final stopping point). Each couple hosts three other couples as guests in their home for one course, giving the chance to meet all of the other couples throughout the evening. For the dessert course, everyone gathers at central location (host still to be determined) and the couples that choose to help with the dessert course all contribute to the dessert, drinks and other things needed.

On the Sunday before the dinner each couple will receive their individual assignment indicating where they go for each course and who will be their guests at the course they host. Sign up early as space is limited. (Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex soon.) We hope you can join us!



It's Valentine's Day!

And you know what that means....**CHOCOLATE!** We have various flavors of Fair Trade Chocolate bars for you to buy for your sweetheart. The large candy bars are \$2.50 each and don't forget the mini's (in the church workroom), which cost 15 cents each. It's a sweet way to help support the Fair Trade growers!

