

2011

March



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Covenant Courier

# LENT

## Sundays

The Christian life is often described as a journey, and in Lent we recognize that our journeys often take us to difficult places. This Lent we will look at the journeys of several people in scripture, and see how those ventures into the difficult places in life can also be some of the times of greatest growth.

March 13 – Abraham’s Journey: just when you thought life was good

March 20 – Elijah’s Journey: slinking off to a cave

March 27 – (pastor on vacation, there will be a guest preacher)

April 3 – Jesus’ Journey: the kind of retreat no one signs up for

April 10 – Paul’s Journey: when God has something entirely different in mind

## Wednesdays—Evening Prayer

(beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 9, through April 13)  
Refresh yourself in the middle of your busy week and spend a few minutes in quiet reflection and prayer at 7:00 Wednesday evenings. We will sing, pray, read the Psalms, be still, and rest in God’s presence.

## Holy Week

### 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 Taize 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)
Traditional Worship Service	11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary

A nursery will be available for all events.

## FUND-OF-CHOICE DESIGNATED FOR 2011

First things first: what, exactly, is the “Fund-of-Choice”? From time to time, Covenant receives monetary gifts (such as memorial gifts) that are not designated for a specific purpose. Rather than simply directing them to the General Fund, those monies are diverted to a special fund for a specific project or need that falls outside the bounds of our regular budget.

This year the session identified three such projects and needs to make up the 2011 Fund-of-Choice. Fifty percent (50%) of undesignated gifts will go to the Playground Fund, twenty-five percent (25%) will go to the Pastor’s Mission Fund (which is used to provide rent, power, and other basic needs to local people); and twenty-five percent (25%) will go to the Mission & Outreach Committee’s General Mission Fund, to be used at the committee’s discretion.

Please remember that you are always welcome to direct a gift to any of those or our other designated funds.

## CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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It's Back! Enjoy  
**Game Night on Friday,  
March 11 at 6:30 p.m.**

at the Amstutz' home (611 Sharon Drive, 282-4104). Bring your favorite board game and your favorite snack! All ages welcome.

### Third Thursday Dinner

Come and celebrate Cinco de Mayo a little early and join the Congregational Life Committee and your fellow Covenant friends for our monthly Third Thursday dinner. Our next dinner is scheduled for March 17 at 6:30 at El Ranchito (off State of Franklin road on the back side of the shopping center which includes Rita's and Jason's Deli). Kids are always welcome (and we can even arrange for them to have their own table if there's interest). Please contact Lauri Zembower (620-3625 or broncofan524@yahoo.com) if you think you'll be attending so we can get a count for the tables. Hope to see you there!

### After Church Lunch—Sunday, March 13, 2011

Congregational Life will provide a beef main dish this month. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share with your church family. 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.

### Fundraisers for Youth Summer Retreat Trips

Covenant Youth will hold two fundraisers for the High School and Middle School Conferences that they are attending this summer. Held at Montreat and at Presbyterian College, these two conferences are great opportunities to build group unity, as well as challenge and revive their commitment to the words of Jesus.

Please keep an eye out for additional information concerning these two events. They will take place in April and May. Thanks for your support.

### Senior High Retreat

All youth in High School are encouraged to attend the Senior High Retreat at Holston Presbytery Camp. The retreat will be Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The cost is \$65 dollars per youth. See Andy for registration forms and more information.

### New in the Library...Sally Nagel

**We Belong to the Land:  
The Story of a Palestinian Israeli  
Who Lives for Peace and Reconciliation**  
Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible

### Young Adult Gathering...Lynnea Hunter

There will be NO official Young Adult Gathering in March, since a significant number of us will be out of town. However, if you're young and an adult and you want to get together, by all means go for it! Our next meeting really will be the second Friday (good Lord willin') on April 8. See you then!

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## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### Friendship (Afternoon) Circle

Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.  
Hostess: Margaret Sullenger  
116 Chadwick Circle, J.C., 952-0291  
Lesson Seven

### Joy (Evening) Circle

Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
Hostess & Discussion Leader: Sharon Benner  
132 Avonlea Place, J.C., 282-5628  
Lesson Seven

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## Church-Related Purchases

"I purchased items for a church activity using the church credit card—now where do I put the receipt?" Receipts for church-related purchases/reimbursements should be placed in the appropriate committee representative's mailbox for signature approval. Please see the list posted to the left of the mailboxes in the church workroom/Andy's office. If you are not sure which committee the purchase is related to, place the receipt (with purchase order form) in Tina's box.

## February Session Highlights...by Cheryl Rice (for Evelyn Kemp)

- Income for January was \$41,277.84 with expenses of \$23,603.33. Therefore, we are \$17,674.51 ahead at the end of the month. However, \$13,720 of the income was in pre-paid pledges from four families and another \$8,800 was from two families who paid their full 2011 pledge in January. We had a major expense of \$4,280 for the annual insurance on the building and church van. Also, \$775 was used from the Danfield Fund to pay for repairs to the heating unit for the fellowship hall.
- Shirley Hines' resignation from the session was accepted with regret.
- The death of Robert Snow was recorded as Feb. 9, 2011.
- Melanie Jones will lock up in February.
- Hal Hunter was elected unanimously to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- Cheryl Rice volunteered and was approved to represent at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Presbytery meeting.
- The Fund of Choice (See article on page 1) was approved as follows:
  - 50% Playground Fund
  - 25% Pastor's Mission Fund
  - 25% General Mission Fund

### Memorial Gifts

**GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:**  
**DOROTHY McPEEK**  
(Jackie Bader's mother)  
**BY**  
CB & Rose Willis

**GIVEN TO THE  
PLAYGROUND FUND  
IN MEMORY OF:**  
**AGNES PLANK**  
**BY**  
Gary & Anne Smith

**GIVEN TO THE TREE & BOUNDARY FUND  
IN MEMORY OF:**  
**AGNES PLANK, ROBERT SNOW,  
DAVID L. HILLHOUSE, and DOROTHY McPEEK**  
**By**  
Roger & Amy Hecht

**GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:**  
**AGNES PLANK**  
**BY**  
Dave & Sharon Benner  
Bill F. Breeding, Jr.  
Alan & Donna Bridwell  
Minnie L. Hale  
Harry & Janet Powell  
CB & Rose Willis



**Entered into the Church Triumphant:**  
Robert L. Snow —February 8, 2011

Dear Covenant Church,

I'm grateful to all of you for your prayers, cards, gifts, and the love you showed me and my family during Ed's lengthy illness and following his passing. Thank you for being such supportive and generous people.

Love,  
*Marie Britt*

### FLOWERS

Don't forget to sign up for flowers to grace our sanctuary. The sign-up poster is on the bulletin board in the hallway next to the sanctuary and has many spaces open for memorials and celebrations to share with everyone else during our service.

### January Treasurer's Report

**Income to General Fund  
January**  
Actual       \*\$41,277.84  
vs. Budgeted \$20,967.33

**Expenses from General Fund  
January**  
Actual       \$23,603.33  
vs. Budgeted \$20,967.33

**Year to Date Income  
General Fund**  
Actual       \*\$41,277.84  
vs. Budgeted \$20,967.33

**Year to Date Expenses from  
General Fund**  
Actual       \$23,603.33  
vs. Budgeted \$20,967.33

\*Six families donated \$22,570 to the General Fund either in Pre-paid pledges or paid their entire 2011 pledge in January.

The 5-Cents a Meal Offering  
for January was \$92.00.

Mortgage stands at \$62,159.37.

### SPECIAL NOTICE:

#### Changes to the (delivery of the) Courier

In order to continue our attempt to cut operational costs, mass printing of the Courier will be phased out over the next couple of months for those with electronic access (e-mail). If you have e-mail but still prefer a printed newsletter (and we know some of you do!!!), PLEASE let Tina know, either by e-mail ([office@covenantpresjc.org](mailto:office@covenantpresjc.org)) or by phone (282-5324). The monthly newsletter, as well as bulletins, sermons, the calendar and other information, is also available on the church website: [www.covenantpresjc.org](http://www.covenantpresjc.org). Be sure to check it out!

## COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Email: [office@covenantpresjc.org](mailto:office@covenantpresjc.org)

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## GENTLE REMINDERS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### HOSTS / HOSTESSES

Do you have the gift of hospitality? Do you enjoy making people feel welcome? Please sign up for After Church Coffee Fellowship Hosting! The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

### ELECTRICITY AND SAFETY

Let's remain good stewards of the electric bill AND help keep the church safe! Please turn off the heaters after the last child and adult leaves the Nursery or the Sunday School classroom or your committee meeting during the week!

Don't forget the lights and be sure to lock the doors behind you if you're the last to leave the church!

### 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)

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## HOLSTON PRESBYTERY CAMP

The [2011 Summer Camp & Conference Schedule](#) is here.

Along with plans for the kids for Summer Camp, there is a July 4th vacation planned for the whole family. Please see the flyers posted in the hallways and visit [www.holstoncamp.org](http://www.holstoncamp.org) for all the details!!

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## GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRIES

Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation Grant (March & April, 2011)

For the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among hunger fighting agencies nationwide using it to help them raise funds during March and April, 2011. The more donations that are made to Good Samaritan Ministries from March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> the more of the Feinstein money they will get! Only donations received from March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 can be used for the Feinstein challenge. These donations can include cash, checks and food items (valued at \$1.00 per item or pound).