

2010

November



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Covenant Courier

## Alternative Gift Fair—Sunday, November 21, 2010

### Mission: Impossible?

In these rough economic times, it will certainly be more difficult, but not impossible. Once again, Covenant has the opportunity to help several ministries through the Alternative Gift Fair.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, five mission organizations will attend our fair in the Fellowship Hall right after worship. Each will have its own representative to help explain its work. This year the Mission Committee has invited three former participants and two new ones in an effort to connect with additional agencies within our community. This year's invited mission groups are:

- 1) Living Waters for the World
- 2) IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network)
- 3) The River
- 4) CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
- 5) Rise Up for Kids

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree, another program that Covenant has been involved with over the years, will also be presented at the Alternative Gift Fair.

If you have a friend or family member who really doesn't need the latest widget, why not consider giving instead to one of these organizations that can use your help with their mission? There will be Gift Cards available for you to send out so that they will know what has been given in their names. We're sure they will appreciate your thoughtfulness. If you can't make it to worship on the 21<sup>st</sup>, the opportunity to give to these programs will continue through the Advent season. Look for brochures and order forms in your bulletins. Hope to see you there!

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### Stewardship in a New Light

The Stewardship Committee is looking to share the vision of where Covenant is moving. The Stewardship season has begun as evidenced by the sermons over the past several weeks and the committees' approach is different this year. The committee will do a presentation at the After Church Lunch on November 14. You will receive an invitation during the first week of November and pledge cards will be included with your quarterly statements. Our dedication of gifts and tithes will be during the morning service on November 21. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you might support the kingdom of God through your pledge to Covenant Church.

*Shirley Hines & Hal Hunter*  
Co-Chairs, Stewardship Committee

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### After Church Lunch—Sunday, November 14, 2010

Please join us for November's After Church Lunch following worship on November 14th. Bill Freeman will provide barbecue and there will be a presentation by the Stewardship Committee (see article above).

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.

## Covenant Fall Clean Up Day— Saturday, November 6th

Tired of seeing those dried up flowers and other vegetation around the church building from summer? Then come join the Property Committee on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> for Fall Clean-up Day! We will begin bright and early at 7 a.m. and go until it is finished or until we tire out. If you can only be here for an hour, we would still greatly welcome you. Wear older clothes, bring gloves and other necessary materials, and join in the camaraderie of making Covenant look great going into the winter season!

## Hand Chime Choir



The Hand Chime Choir is still accepting new members. As of this publication, the Hand Chime Choir is planning to play a piece for the prelude on Sunday, November 14. The choir is beginning work on other pieces for the late fall and into the Advent / Christmas season.

It's not too late to sign up! Prior musical experience is helpful but not required. Practices are held on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45 a.m., (with occasional short practices on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-7:30 on the weeks that Ann is away on Sundays). Please contact Ann Freeman at 929-2552 if you are interested.



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## **Help "The River" by Giving and Shopping**

The River ministry has been blessed with a "MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE" of \$10,000. This means that your gift of any amount will be matched up to their goal of \$10,000 if received by December 1<sup>st</sup>. If they reach their goal, The River will have a total of \$20,000 to help them continue serving women and children in need!

The River will be represented at Covenant's Alternative Gift Fair again this year (see article on page 1). Remember that all money collected for The River by December 1<sup>st</sup> (including contributions at the Alternative Gift Fair) will be matched by the \$10,000 matching grant, so any gift you give at the Fair will be doubled! At this time, The River has collected around \$7,000 dollars toward the matching fund. Please help The River reach its goal of collecting the entire \$10,000 grant by giving generously.

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The River ministry located at 125 West Main Street is hosting an **Open House and Art Show** on First Friday- November 5<sup>th</sup>- from 6-9 p.m. There will be live music, hot cider, art for sale by local artists, face painting, and tours of The River. Come and do your Christmas Shopping and have a great time! Call 926-8111 for more information.

## **Thanks for helping to keep The River flowing!**

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### Presbyterian Women

#### Afternoon Circle

Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

Hostess: Amy Hecht, 1817 Galen Drive, J.C., 929-2609

Co-Hostess: Helen Davis

Lesson Three

*(to carpool, meet at the church at 1:10 p.m.)*

#### Evening Circle

Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Hostess & Discussion Leader: Donna Bridwell

9 Boles Drive, J.C., 928-9534

Lesson Three

*and the award goes to...*

This year's Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women was awarded to Sue Sheffield for her service and dedication to her church and community.

Congratulations, Sue!

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### Equal Exchange

**New! Chocolate flavors – New! Coffee Sale – New! Packaging – check it out!**



## Mission & Outreach Committee



### Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Ministry

*putting faith into action*

Each of the 1.5 million children of prisoners in America face a risk five to seven times higher than an average child of being incarcerated one day. Prison Fellowship Ministry is seeking to reach these at-risk children through the Spirit and love of Jesus Christ.

By partnering with this vital ministry, you are helping to strengthen the ties that bind a child to his/her incarcerated parent and to remind these children that they are not forgotten. Volunteers are needed to help ease the pain of imprisoned parents who are unable to provide presents for their children by buying suggested Christmas gifts (worth \$25) for the incarcerated parents to give to their children.

At the Alternative Gift Fair on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, you will have the opportunity to sign up for your little angel. You will be able to choose a child from the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. Your gifts can be returned to the church, wrapped and labeled, on or before Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. A group of Angel Tree volunteers will deliver the gifts to the children on the following Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

There are other important volunteer opportunities with Angel Tree as well. If you are not able to “adopt” a child, please consider a monetary donation at the Angel Tree table. Also, we will need volunteers to wrap books for children and caregivers, to help organize gifts as they arrive at the church, to map driving directions to children’s homes, and to deliver gifts to the children on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. If you would be interested in volunteering in any of these important ways, please sign up at the Angel Tree table.

In an Angel Tree Christmas, everyone wins. The prisoner feels the pride of doing something personal for his/her child. The child experiences the joy of knowing that her parent has not forgotten her. And we receive the blessing of service and enjoy the spiritual growth that comes from *putting faith into action*.

This year we have 20 children, ages 2 – 17 and we hope you will join us by participating in this special ministry. *For more information, please contact Bill and Erma Hyers (543-4926) or Bob and Nancy Hart (610-0861), Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Coordinators.*

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## Range School

For several years now, Covenant has had a wonderful relationship with Range School, (Pre-school to 8th grade). Located in Turkeytown in Carter County, it has approximately 124 students each year of which about 90% receive subsidized breakfast and lunch.

Our Mission and Outreach Committee first made contact with Range School several years ago when we called the school to ask if we could contribute the gloves, mittens and hats that had been donated to our Mitten Tree. On one cold January morning, we first met the Principal, Mrs. Liz Banks, and gave her mittens or gloves for every student in the school, along with lots of decorative, warm hats and scarves. She expressed her thanks and eventually we had wonderful stories and letters of thanks from the students and teachers.

Our visit that day included a tour of the school. First, Mrs. Banks showed us the red, white and blue gym that had been newly painted by local prisoners. The next stop was just 3 steps up to what had been the stage. That area is their library (which still needs to be updated).

Every year, for the last four years, members of Covenant have been active in giving books (new and used) to the library, bringing in National Geographic magazines, used books from Mr. K, volunteering time in the classrooms and library, and just helping out wherever needed.

In 2008 Covenant held a Holiday Shoppe Craft Fair, with the proceeds helping to send children from Range School on a field trip to Washington, D.C. Covenant folks also helped the PTA put on a Garage Sale to help fund the trip.

Our members have helped provide items for a Clothes Closet during the winter months. Unfortunately, those supplies have been exhausted and the need for children’s clothing continues.

Range School does not have a music program. They welcome one of our members teaching German folk songs to pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

This year Range is working on a fourth grade writing project, sending letters to students in Africa. The school would be grateful for assistance in paying for the return postage.

If you have a heart for children of any age, there is a big welcome for you at Range School in Turkeytown!

## SAVE THE DATE!

### **Prison Fellowship Angel Tree** (see article page 3):

Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>

*Sign up for your little angel or for an angel volunteer opportunity at the Alternative Gift Fair.*

By Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

*Bring your gifts to the church, wrapped and labeled.*

On Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

*Angel Tree delivery!*



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### Congregational Life Committee— Third Thursday Dinners

The Congregational Life Committee invites you to join your fellow Covenant members for our monthly Third Thursday dinner. There's no house cleaning or cooking required!

Our next dinner is scheduled for **November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at 112 Downtown**. 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!

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### Peacemaking Offering

Last month we received a total of **\$1,043.96** for the Peacemaking Offering!

\$130.50 will be given to Range School in Carter County and \$130.50 will be given to the Magill Memorial Presbyterian Church Youth Outreach Program. \$782.96 will help our partners in the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly as they work on behalf of God's peacemaking throughout the world.

Thank you for your generosity.

### Middler Retreat

On November 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> the Middle School Retreat will take place at Holston Presbytery Camp. The title for this year's retreat is "OMG R U 4 Real?" We will leave on Friday at around 4:00-5:00, and we will return on Sunday afternoon.

If you are interested, please take a flyer from the bulletin board. Don't hesitate to talk to Andy if you have any questions.

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## Thank You

To the Covenant Congregation,

Thank you so much for the beautiful reception and love offering Sunday, September 19, 2010. As we have expressed so many times, never have we felt so loved and cared for by a church congregation. It has been our pleasure to work and minister through music these past few years. You will always remain present in our prayers and daily thoughts.

In Christ,

*Pat & Randy Adams*

## October Session Highlights...Evelyn Kemp

- Rev. Amstutz will be visiting her father in Arizona from October 25-29; she will be responding to e-mail during that time.
- WNL! has begun. Anyone is invited to drop by and have supper with the kids at 6:30 PM – no reservation needed!
- Contributions to the Peacemaking Offering October 3<sup>rd</sup> totaled \$982.81. (Grand total is \$1,043.96)
- The next Sunday the youth will lead the service is October 31.
- Fall Clean-Up Day is scheduled for November 6 beginning at 7 AM. Please bring supplies you may need.
- You may have noticed some clean-up of the playground, thanks to Charles Trifiletti.
- There are four applicants for the Music Director position. Auditions will begin in November.
- The Congregational Life Committee needs new members. They meet the first Tuesday evening of every month. If you would like to be included, contact Andrea Sutter.
- Covenant budget currently has a \$13,000 deficit for the year.
- The Melting Pot Grant match funds (\$1,000) are being contributed to support the mission work of Augustin Mukendi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- The Mission and Outreach Committee is proposing to develop deeper relationships with the Angel Tree families, including having someone from the congregation adopt an Angel Tree child and continue to be involved with them and their family through the year.
- The next After Church Lunch is November 14, and will feature Bill Freeman's barbeque.
- The General Assembly is considering the following changes in the constitution: changes in ordination standards, revision of section G of the Book of Order, and potential acceptance of the Belhar confession. Further information is available online.

## New in the Library...Sally Nagel

**Grieving a Suicide: A Loved One's Search for Comfort, Answers & Hope**  
**No Time to Say Goodbye: Surviving the Suicide of a Loved One**  
Given in memory of Stanley Armistead by the Friendship Circle.

(Look for these books on the Caregiving Shelf,  
on the far right set of shelves in the Library.)



## Memorial Gifts

**GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:**

**BOB SOBOL**

**BY**

Bob & Estelle Armistead  
Glady Hood

**GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:**

**STANLEY ARMISTEAD**

**BY**

Franklin & Evelyn Clark

## **September Treasurer's Report**

**Income to General Fund  
September**

**Actual \$16,134.72  
vs. Budgeted \$20,734.58**

**Expenses from General Fund  
September**

**Actual \$19,796.45  
vs. Budgeted \$20,734.58**

**Year to Date Income  
General Fund**

**Actual \$176,633.84  
vs. Budgeted \$186,611.22**

**Year to Date Expenses from  
General Fund**

**Actual \$189,637.48  
vs. Budgeted \$186,611.22**

**The 5-Cents a Meal Offering  
for September was \$146.00.**

**Peacemaking Offering was  
\$1,043.96.**

**Mortgage stands at \$71,689.97.**

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

Email: cpcjctn@mounet.com

Gentle Reminders:

**Committee Chairs need to have their  
2011 budget requests to  
Gary Smith,  
Hal Hunter or Shirley Hines  
as soon as possible.**

**Deadline for December Courier:  
Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>!  
(Remember to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night!)**