

2011

NOVEMBER



SAINTS ALIVE! LIVING GENEROUSLY

Sunday, November 6, is Dedication Sunday. During the service we will gather those promises and commitments that we are making to the Lord to support Covenant and God's work throughout the coming year. We pray that you have sought God's guidance in making your commitment and thought about why you give to the church.

God does ask that we give 10%. Is that enough? too much? just right? That is between you and God. Here on earth, only our treasurer knows what anyone pledges or commits to and you have the right to change your commitment if your circumstances change.

Prayerfully consider your commitment to the mission of Covenant as we move through this period of change and challenge and we will see you on November 6, 2011.

Yours in Christian Service,

The Stewardship Committee

Hal Hunter (Chair), Tony Madden, Charles Trifiletti, and Gary Smith

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2011

Serve God - Give More - Consume Less

Don't get us wrong. Mission Committee members still go Christmas shopping for our kids and grandkids like we always have. But when we draw up our own Christmas list, we think carefully and prayerfully about what we put on it and often we say to each other "I really don't need or want anything. Why don't we go to the Alternative Gift Fair after church this year and give to someone in real need?"

On November 20th, four mission organizations will attend our fair in the Fellowship Hall right after worship. Each will have a representative to help explain their work. This year's invited mission groups include three former participants and one new participant:

1. LWW (Living Waters for the World)
2. IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network)
3. The River
4. Bob & Kristi Rice, PC(USA) Mission Workers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Another program that is administered by Covenant, the Angel Tree, will also be available 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 20th, these programs will continue through the Advent season, so you will still have ample time to participate. Hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATES!

PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE MINISTRY (see article on page 2)

Sunday, November 20th

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

By Sunday, December 4th

Bring your gifts to the church, wrapped and labeled.

On Sunday, December 11th

Angel Tree delivery!

Greening of the Church will be on Saturday, December 3rd at 9:30 a.m. Contact

Lynnea Hunter with any questions. P.S.: Save the morning of January 7, 2012 to undecorate. We will need some strong backs for this! Thanks!

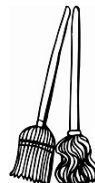


The youth will be heading up to Holston Camp on Friday, November 25,

at 10:00 a.m. to get our Chrismon Tree for the sanctuary! We'll leave from the church parking lot at 10:00, will find a tree, eat some lunch, and do a little study of Chrismons before heading back to Johnson City. If you or your youth would like to come help get the tree, please contact Lynnea.

COVENANT FALL CLEAN UP DAY—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

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 5th 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!



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 20th, 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 4th. A group of Angel Tree volunteers will deliver the gifts to the children on the following Sunday, December 11th.

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 11th. 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 – 18, 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Friendship (Afternoon) Circle

November 8, 2011 – 1:30 p.m.

Hostess: Rose Willis

2734 E. Oakland Ave, #C-24, J.C., 282-3325

Lesson Three Leader: Dot Carpenter



Joy (Evening) Circle

November 22, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Anne Smith (929-1604)

Meeting will be at the church.

Lesson Three Leader: Melanie Jones

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Wanted: NOMINATIONS FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD
(given annually by Covenant)

We are blessed to have many, many women in the church who give unselfishly of their talents. If you would like to nominate one of these women for this year’s Presbyterian Women’s Honorary Life Membership, please submit their name and a brief compilation of their activities (i.e., Sunday school teachers, session members, committees, etc.) to Amy Hecht or to Tina in the church office. Those who have already been honored are listed on a plaque in the hallway. Thank you!

YOUNG ADULT MONTHLY GATHERING—

FRIDAY, NOV. 11...Lynnea Hunter

Remember, remember the eleventh of November! (Sorry, I had to go there.) Anyway, this month we will be enjoying dinner and dessert on Friday, November 11. Dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. at a fabulous, as-yet-to-be-determined restaurant in the Boone's Creek or Gray area. (Those of you who live there, feel free to make some suggestions!)

After dinner, we will adjourn to John and Jane Deaton's, 868 Walkers Bend Road, about 8.30 to partake of dessert. Yum! As always, bring yourselves and bring your friends, and let Lynnea know if you're coming. See you there!

AFTER CHURCH LUNCH SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 13

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Nov. 13th. Congregational Life will provide soup, but if anyone would like to bring soup (or chili, too), please let us know so we can balance the right amounts. Otherwise, please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. 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 (or if you will bring soup or chili), please contact Andrea Sutter or Lauri Zembower.

OCTOBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS...by Evelyn Kemp

- Revenue for September was \$14,404 and expenses were \$16,252. That leaves Covenant \$4,900 behind for the year.
- The playground renovation is finished and being utilized by neighborhood children as well as Covenant's own!
- Van drivers and hosts are still needed for the WNL / IHN collaboration. Also needed are kitchen helpers and dinner partners for WNL. Members are encouraged to drop in to have dinner with the kids any Wednesday evening at 6 PM.
- October 30 is the next youth led service.
- Fall Clean-up Day is scheduled for November 5. Please bring buckets and cleaning supplies and plan to begin at 7 AM.
- Please welcome Melodye Sparks, our new Music Director, and Jenni Marshall, our new Accompanist.
- November 6th will be Stewardship Dedication Sunday.
- A volunteer is needed to relieve Fred Dulin as the Christian Education Committee chair.
- The Elder Nominating Committee has compiled a slate of nominees for the Class of 2014 and for one unexpired term of the Class of 2012. There will be a Congregational Meeting to vote for new officers immediately following worship on October 23.
- Please pray for the Session as they work towards finding an Interim Pastor until a new Pastor can be installed.

PEACEMAKING OFFERING:

"A harvest of justice is sown in peace" (James 3:18)

Last month we received the Peacemaking Offering. \$201.56 will be given to support Bob & Kristi Rice, missionaries to the Congo. \$604.66 will help our partners in the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly as they work on behalf of God's peace-making throughout the world. Thank you.

Committee Chairs need to have their 2012 budget requests to Gary Smith or Hal Hunter as soon as possible.

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 6th!
(Remember to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night!)

THANK YOU

To my dear friends at Covenant,

Words fail me as I try to find a way to thank you for your generous gift, and for the outpouring of love and kindness you have shown me over the years, but especially these last few months. While it has been difficult watching my father's health decline and taking on more and more responsibility for him, I have never felt alone in the struggle—you have all offered help, support, encouragement, and wisdom from your own experience. Most of all, you have loved us.

Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor all these years, and for making us a part of your family. We love you all.

With love,
Sharon

Dear Covenant,

The Wiley family is extremely grateful and blessed to have had you share so generously the delicious meals brought to the house following my recent hip surgery. I am quite sure the wonderful meals helped with my rehab.

Thank you,
Pat Wiley & Family

SEPTEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

Income to General Fund
September
Actual \$14,404.27
vs. Budgeted \$20,967.33

Expenses from General Fund
September
Actual \$16,252.63
vs. Budgeted \$20,967.33

Year to Date Income
General Fund
Actual \$171,928.89
vs. Budgeted \$188,706.00

Year to Date Expenses from
General Fund
Actual \$176,829.18
vs. Budgeted \$188,706.00

The 5-Cents a Meal Offering
for September was \$138.51.
Mortgage stands at \$44,118.30.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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<http://www.covenantpresjc.org>

E-mail: office@covenantpresjc.org

GOOD SAM - FOOD FOR LIFE: NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR - 2011

Our goal has been met! We have 400 boxes of Mac 'n Cheese and 447 cans of Sweet Potatoes for the Good Samaritan's Thanksgiving baskets. Thank you for your support and generosity!!

THIRD THURSDAY DINNER—NOVEMBER 17

The Congregational Life Committee invites you to join your fellow Covenant members for our monthly Third Thursday dinner. Our next dinner is scheduled for November 17 at 6:30 at Tomy Thai (1736 W. State of Franklin). 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!

Holston YAV Again!

Holston Presbytery once again has a YAV (Young Adult Volunteer) in Northern Ireland! Patrick Harley from First Pres. Greeneville will be living and working in Belfast at Dundonald Methodist Church for the next year until August 2012. You can follow along with his adventures at patrickinbelfast.wordpress.com, or you can read the updates on the Mission Map in the hallway off the Narthex. You can also find updates from Doug Baker, the PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker in Northern Ireland and the PC(USA) Regional Liaison for Ireland and the United Kingdom. He and his wife Elaine have served as mentors, friends and parents-away-from-home for many a YAV, including our own Lynnea Hunter. Enjoy their adventures and please continue to support the YAV program with your thoughts and prayers!

MISSION STATEMENT

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to glorify and enjoy God. We live knowing that God calls us to be a place of love, support, hope and acceptance regardless of earthly labels; Jesus Christ commissions us to make disciples and passionately share our gifts with the world through prayer, teaching, and service; the Holy Spirit allows us to determine and carry out Christ's will for our lives and the life of our church, and empowers us to seek out and respond to the needs of our local and global community.