

2010

October



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Covenant Courier

International Peacemaker @ Covenant-October 3rd

Please join us for worship on World Communion Sunday, October 3rd. We will have the privilege of hosting the Reverend Probe Augustin Mukendi Kabongo, an International Peacemaker from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Reverend Kabongo will present a program in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour and then will preach the sermon during worship.

Peacemaking Offering—Sunday, October 3, 2010

Every year our congregation joins Christians around the world in celebrating World Communion Sunday. The central focus of this Sunday is the Lord's Supper instituted by Christ and its unifying message for all who partake of it. We are one in Christ Jesus and not to be separated by the nations, ethnic groups or denominations we belong to, or for any other reason.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) also marks the day by a call to peacemaking, urging us to be followers of the Prince of Peace. One concrete way that we do that is by receiving the Peacemaking Offering. Through this special offering, we work together with others in our presbytery, our synod and nationally through the General Assembly's Peacemaking Program to learn and live out the ways of peace.

The Peacemaking Offering invites each congregation to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community. For that reason, our church will retain 25 percent of the Offering we receive to be divided equally between Range School in Carter County and the Magill Memorial Presbyterian Church Youth Outreach Program. Another 25 percent goes to our presbytery or synod, and the remaining 50 percent goes to the General Assembly for peacemaking involvement throughout the world.

Join us on October 3rd to celebrate World Communion Sunday and to commit ourselves to working for the unity of the church and the peace of Christ. Come ready to give generously to the Peacemaking Offering.

After Church Lunch—Sunday, October 3, 2010

October's After Church Lunch has been rescheduled for next Sunday, October 3rd. In keeping with the Peacemaking theme, Lynnea Hunter will speak on her experiences as a Young Adult Volunteer in Northern Ireland. The entrée (BBQ Pork) will be provided and prepared by the Congregational Life Committee. 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.

Stewardship Committee

As we draw closer to the stewardship season let us all remember, stewardship is about making choices, as individuals and in community. It is more than giving money to the church. Stewardship is about being faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us. Stewardship is not just one part of Christian discipleship; it involves every aspect of life in all the stages of life. Stewardship is the grateful response to God's grace and goodness. It requires a consideration of how our choices affect others, of how we can be good caretakers of the created world and ourselves, and of how we can best serve God as disciples of Christ.

A Note from the Issues Bible Study Class

Recently, the Issues Class finished viewing and discussing *Renewal: Stories From America's Religious Environmental Movement*, a video presentation of environmental issues as approached from several different faith communities' perspectives. As usual, when a study ends the question is asked, "Now what are we going to do about this?"

Fall is stewardship season, when we consider giving our time, talents, and resources for the betterment of our community and beyond. Our class would like to lead Covenant toward becoming a greener community, at church and at home, as we concentrate as well on stewardship of our environment.

Our first objective is to reduce our waste. You may have noticed the signs on the towel dispensers, "Why take 2 when 1 will do?" We would like to cut back on our use of paper products, and to eliminate the use of Styrofoam altogether. Food waste, especially at WNL, might be reduced by consciously focusing on not taking more food than we will consume. We're doing a pretty good job of recycling already, and we need to remain mindful that the small walk to the recycling containers is good for us and good for the landfill.

We are sure you will have more ideas, and we look forward to further discussion of what we all can do as conscientious stewards of creation.

The Issues Class

A Special Ministry Opportunity...Andrea Sutter

This past week it finally dawned on me that we are indeed doing ministry in a different way at Presbyterian Campus Ministry at ETSU. I want to share my experience with you. Last Friday afternoon a couple of ETSU students stopped in my office at the campus house with a question. They asked if I could give them a meal. They explained that neither of them was on a meal plan at the University and that funds from their parents were running very low. Financial Aid at the University had not been distributed yet. They had no money for food. They had heard on campus that the Presbyterians wouldn't let you go hungry if they knew you were in need. They didn't elaborate on who told them that and I certainly didn't dispute it. I took them to the kitchen, looked through our cabinets and fridge and came up with a decent meal for two very hungry guys. We talked while preparing the meal together. I got to know a little bit about them, they got to hear a little bit about our different student fellowships, our laundry ministry, and in general our acceptance of them into our facility without any prerequisites. They said thank you for the meal by straightening out the shed—a job that I dreaded. And they said again and again how nice it was to just have someone show caring and kindness. They asked about our Tuesday night Presbyterian Student Fellowship—would it really be okay if they came if they weren't Presbyterian or even if they weren't sure that they believed in God? I was so glad to be able to tell them that no matter what, they are welcome here.

I thought about this all weekend. I shared it with a few people. And one of the ideas that came out of the sharing is that it would be nice to have single serving meals available for just this kind of ministry. Not the frozen dinner in the box kind, but the kind made with love, by our own hands....the kind we would serve family. This is how I thought that could be accomplished. When you are making a wonderful meal for your family, make one extra serving of each part of the meal, put it in a freezer container, label it and let me know it is available for pickup. I will keep them in our freezer here at the Campus Ministry. If you want/need small containers, there will be some available in the church kitchen in the box labeled "Campus Ministry". Hearty soups, chili, lasagna....all of those are things that can be frozen and warmed easily. If you have other ideas, we are open to them.

Thank you all for reading my story. Thank you all for your prayers. The Presbyterian Campus Ministry at ETSU continues to grow because we have your prayers behind us.

Andrea Sutter

926-2522 (Campus House), 773-5602 (cell)

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 6th 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!

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 October 21st at 6:30 at Stir Fry Café. 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!

Report from the Session Retreat

Do you often stop to ask yourself what God is doing in your life, or where God is leading you, what God wants you to be doing? Your session does. Each time we meet we spend time in prayer, asking God to direct us and make his vision clear to us. And every few months we take a break from our regular business meetings to get away together for a few hours to spend some focused time discerning God's will for Covenant.

Here is a summary of our recent retreat in August.

Believing that God never calls us to be or do something that is inconsistent with what and who God created us to be, we began by creating a self-portrait of Covenant. Through thoughtful prayer and discussion, we asked ourselves what our strengths, assets and core values were. Where are we at our best? This is what we came up with.

We are...

- friendly/welcoming – we practice hospitality well.
- family-oriented – community and relationships are very important to us; intimacy, support; we care about each other.
- generous with what we have.
- nurturing of children and youth.
- traditional in worship and programs.
- committed to our sense of ownership of the church.
- dependable.
- rich in resources of all kinds—skills, gifts, material resources, education.

We affirmed that we are a healthy church with many gifts and strengths. However, we also recognize that no church is perfect, and we identified a few areas where we are ailing or losing ground.

We are...

- aging and losing young people.
- afraid of change, too comfortable with where we are right now.
- committed to caring for our own church family, but we tend to be inwardly focused.
- limited financially – the deficit limits our ministry and mission, as well as our ability to take care of the church property.
- experiencing a loss of energy and enthusiasm – one elder suggested we have a “failure of imagination” (from a book we read together, *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers*).
- not proactive about dealing with church-wide issues, concerns and needs.

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Report from the Session Retreat (continued)

And, finally, we looked to our future. Based on our God-given identity, and reflecting our current “ailments”, where do we sense that God is leading us? Three goals were identified.

1. be more inviting to younger adults and youth without alienating older adults or compromising our sense of community.
2. do more outreach as a congregation, emphasizing personal involvement and depth of relationships, and making the effort church-wide.
3. make sure we have the physical means to meet our goals (property, financial resources, etc...) **and** have the faith that we can do it.

In the pursuit of our goals, concrete plans were identified:

1. To build on our current worship service to be sure it reaches all ages.
2. To develop 2 or 3 specific ideas on how to provide ministry in the greater community, and to choose one of these ideas.
3. To develop a specific plan for funding our urgent physical plant needs.

The session is excited about Covenant and its future. We have seen, and continue to see and experience God at work here. As we move forward we invite your input and participation. You are always welcome to come to any meeting of the session, and the committees that carry out the work of the church are always looking for folks to join them.

2010 Session

Fred Dulin, Christian Education
Shirley Hines, Stewardship
Melissa Hopkins, Worship
Hal Hunter, Stewardship
Melanie Jones, Mission & Outreach
Evelyn Kemp, Clerk of Session
Bob Maletich, Property
Margaret Sullenger
Andrea Sutter, Congregational Life
Charles Trifiletti, Mission & Outreach
Max Wilson, Human Resources
Christian Zembower, Property

Presbyterian Women

Afternoon Circle

Tuesday, October 12th at 1:30 p.m.

Hostess: Pat Willard

116 W. Chestnut St., J.C., 926-6704

Co-Hostess: Deborah Lewis

Lesson Two Leader: Estelle Armistead.

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

Evening Circle

Tuesday, **October 19th** at 7:00 p.m.

This month **only** the evening circle will meet on the **third** Tuesday. Our hostess (and discussion leader for Lesson Two) will be Anne Smith. Her address is 239 N. Gilmer Park, J.C., 929-1604.

We are a small circle and would like other Covenant women to join us. If you are interested, call Sharon Benner (282-5628) to secure a study book or to obtain further details.

September Session Highlights...Evelyn Kemp

- The session will share the discussion from the August elder's retreat with the congregation on September 26.
- The income for August was \$26,000 and expenses were \$19,000. There is still a deficit of \$9,000 for the year.
- WNL began September 15 and will continue for the next several months.
- October 3 is the Peacemaking Offering and we will have a guest pastor from Africa that Sunday.
- Covenant's share of the Peacemaking offering will be split between Range School and Magill Presbyterian Church's Youth Program.
- Lynnea Hunter (YAV) is scheduled to speak after the church lunch on October 3.
- The next Sunday the youth will lead the service is October 31.
- Fall Clean-Up Day is scheduled for November 6.
- The Alternative Gift Fair will be held November 21, 2010. The following organizations will be represented: Living Waters for the World, The River, Interfaith Hospitality Network, CASA, and Rise Up for Kids.
- First draft estimated playground rehabilitation costs range from \$9,992 -\$11,141.
- In August, Phyllis and David Wood helped at RAM (the Rural Area Medical). RAM provided dental, vision, and general medical care for 750 patients at the event.
- The Music Director search: deadline for applications is October 15.
- The Congregational Life Committee needs new members. They meet monthly on the first Tuesday evening. If you can help, contact Andrea Sutter.

Entered into the Church Triumphant:

(Former member) Bob Sobol—September 4, 2010

New in the Library...Sally Nagel

ESV Study Bible, Large Print Edition

Given in memory of Peter Block by Jeter & Lattie Collins.

Note: Large Print books are marked with a yellow dot on the spine.

Deadline for November Courier is Monday, October 18th.

Church-Related Purchases

"I purchased items for a church event 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. Thank you!

August Treasurer's Report

**Income to General Fund
August**

Actual \$26,336.61

vs. Budgeted \$20,734.58

**Expenses from General Fund
August**

Actual \$18,895.88

vs. Budgeted \$20,734.58

**Year to Date Income
General Fund**

Actual \$160,499.12

vs. Budgeted \$165,876.64

**Year to Date Expenses from
General Fund**

Actual \$169,841.03

vs. Budgeted \$165,876.64

**The 5-Cents a Meal Offering
for August was \$99.00.**

Mortgage stands at \$75,340.22.

30 Payments remaining.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Email: cpcjctn@mounet.com

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV)

To My Awesome and Amazing Covenant Family,

I'll never be able to express my gratitude for all that you've done for me over this past year while I was in Belfast. The cards, emails, prayers, one Skype dinner and the monetary support were incredible! Thank you!

That said, I just got my numbers in from the YAV Office in Louisville; I still lack just a little bit of funding and it's not too late to give! We (and other supporters) have raised a whopping \$8,548! This is great, but it means I still need \$452 to reach my \$9,000 end goal and fully meet my commitment to the YAV program. This may seem like a big number especially in light of all the money that's already been raised, but if 90 people give only \$5 each then we're there! Or 45 people could give \$10. No amount is too small! The easiest way to donate is to write a check to Covenant Presbyterian Church and note 'YAV' in the memo line.

Thank you all again, so much! I'm really looking forward to sharing all my adventures with you on October 3 for the church lunch on Peacemaking Sunday! I hope to see you all there!

[Síocháin](#), *Lynnea*

Equal Exchange Update

Covenant is a Fair Trade Coffee Church. Enjoy organic, fair-trade coffee during fellowship times and don't forget to shop for coffees, chocolate, and other goodies in the Narthex.

SALE The Presbyterian Coffee Project is offering monthly sales to promote coffees for farmer partners. When Covenant orders a sale coffee, we pass the savings on to you. Keep an eye on the SALE signs.

New Coffee Our newest choice in drip grind coffee is *Organic, Mind, Body & Soul*. With the subtly delicious traditional Mexican flavors of chocolate and spice, this blend of coffees is from indigenous farmer co-operatives in Oaxaca and Chiapas.

Chocolate Equal Exchange chocolate bars cannot be shipped during the hot summer months. When shipping resumes in October, look forward to two new chocolate bars: *Organic Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt* (55% cacao content) and single-origin *Organic Ecuador Dark Chocolate* (65% cacao content) from the Fortaleza del Valle co-operative.