

Your *Communicator*

August 2008

At the end of each Communion service, we say a unison prayer that includes these words:
Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same.

When we share the Living Bread, we are changed.
We simply cannot remain the same.

So I ask you: Do I look different to you? Can you see a difference from the way I looked at the beginning of the summer? You know, before I went to Scotland with some Covenant folks to explore our Scottish roots? Before I went to Honduras with the Covenant youth to work at Montana de Luz, a home for children with AIDS? Am I the same person I was then? Or have I been changed by the Living Bread shared with brothers and sisters I had not realized I had?

You can't do things like that and expect to remain the same. We broke bread in some unusual places. We had some unlikely conversations. We witnessed some amazing sights. We shared experiences that we would never have shared had we stayed in our comfortable daily routines.

There was a Scottish couple who opened their home to us for an afternoon of hospitality and sharing stories of their work with mentally handicapped adults. There was a lovely couple from India seeing the sights of the UK, who asked us to consider visiting

them at their home if a future trip takes us to India. There was a Scottish Highland sheep farmer who demonstrated with pride his sheep dogs and their uncanny ability to gather and move a flock of sheep. By the time this reaches you, I will have met Honduran children who live each day with HIV/AIDS and the people who have devoted their lives to caring for them. There are the Columbus, Ohio folks who work for Montana de Luz in Honduras and make it possible for people like us to see first hand the miracles that God can work in the lives of people who desperately need them.

And there are the Covenant people I had previously only known "at church" and with whom I got to share adventures "out there in the world."

The Living Bread cannot be kept to ourselves. By its very nature, it must be shared. Whether we share it on the other side of the world or share it on the other side of town, or even share it on the other side of our daily routine, God calls us out of comfort and complacency into the adventure of new life.

Grace and Peace,
Tracy



Adult Interests

Free Prescription Discount Card

A free prescription discount card is available to every Franklin County resident. Save as much as 20% on prescription medications. No fees, forms, requirements, or restrictions, regardless of age, income, or health care coverage. There are no costs to the county, county taxpayers, or consumers. Everyone is eligible, and you always receive the lowest retail price, saving money if you don't have insurance, or on medications not covered by insurance. The card is easy to use. The Franklin County Prescription Discount Card is accepted at 59,000 pharmacies in 950 counties nationwide. Pick up your FREE Prescription Discount Card at any county building or public library.

Christian Education Contact Katie Kinnison, 451-6677, katherinekinnison@covenantpcusa.org



Katie's Corner

As August unfolds, my planner get lots and lots of wear. I'm always putting things on the calendar, making lists of needs, trying to be sure I remember to do x and y and z. There is some pleasure in this process: seeing

the workings of my days there reminds me of the abundant blessings of my life as my children, friends and work fill the pages.

Here's the thing though, my children and friends and work are the blessings of my life, not the source. Perhaps when we pull out our calendars to put order and priority into the shape of our days, we should re-

member the Source, our Living Water, the One from Whom all blessings flow.

I've started to put God on my calendar. I'm writing down, blocking in, assigning time for prayer and study and retreat. I'm building my days so that they begin and end with prayer, so that time with God, deliberate time with God, infuses my life and makes the every-day sacred. This is who I want to be, for I would love God with all my heart and soul and strength. Only then will those other things in my calendar make sense. Only then will I have the power, that power from the Living God, to go out into the world with brave love and do my part in working for the coming of the Kingdom of God. This is who I would be, who I plan to be. May God uphold us in our hopes.

Road Trips

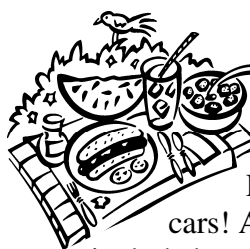
North Market

Join us Sat., September 6, for a trip to the North Market. Meet at the church at 8:30 am and carpool. The Market has coffee, pastries, locally grown produce and more, so you can eat breakfast there. Please RSVP to Katie Kinnison or Susan Imel.

Vatican Splendor

Join us Wed., August 20, for a trip to The Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland to see "Vatican Splendors," an exhibit from Saint Peter's Basilica, the Vatican museums, and the Swiss

Guard. The exhibition features 200 rare works of art and historical objects, many which have never left the Vatican. It is a multi-sensory experience, taking visitors from the underground catacombs to the magnificent papal chambers. Tickets are \$17 (\$14 for children 6-12) and must be purchased in advance. Our church van will leave Covenant at 9 am and return between 4 and 5 pm. Go to vaticansplendors.com. To register, contact the church or Katie by Fri., August 8 so we can get a group rate.



Annual Block Party. Bring Your Friends!

The big block party is on Sun., August 24, noon to 2 pm, in the East Parking Lot. Music! Vintage cars! Activities for children! Food will include brats, hot dogs, BBQ sandwiches, baked beans, salads, watermelon, cookies, chips, iced tea, lemonade, and water. Adults: \$5; Children: \$3; Families: \$12. What fun!

Junior Youth and Magic Mountain

Sneak in one last dose of summer fun before those school bells ring. We invite children from 2nd through 5th grade and their friends to join us Sun., August 17 for a trip to the Polaris Magic Mountain. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall at 12:15 to begin our adventure. Bring money for food and entertainment. All the information you need about options for fun is on the website www.magicmountainfuncenter.com. It would help us tremendously to know how many people are coming, so RSVP to Shane Spicer or Katie.

Faith and American Politics

Maybe the idea of politics coming anywhere near religion or faith makes you sweat. Or maybe it's talking about it with others that you dread. What if we knew how to have

meaningful, productive conversations? People of faith can change the direction and tone of discussions between faith and politics. We can learn how to listen to one another and share ideas in ways that build up the body of Christ rather than tear it up.

Join our group discussions "Faith and American Politics: Liberty and Justice for All" in September as we begin this seven week course. Fee for materials is \$20. Check future bulletins and our website for more information. To register, contact Katie.

Join Sunday Night Bible Study...

6:30 to 7:30 pm, Room 120. As you read this, we'll be finishing our study of Romans and beginning our conversation about what piece of scripture to study together next. Join our conversation and discover (or rediscover) the great joy that comes in exploring the Word of God with brothers and sisters in Christ. Contact Katie.

Surviving Divorce with God's Grace & Peace

Our God stays with us through brokenness and creates new wholeness we never imagined possible. People going through divorce need to hear the good news of God's saving grace. Divorce is a long process and a different journey for each person. If you have healing to do, join us on Wednesday evenings beginning August 27, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, as we explore what it means to heal, to forgive, to find new ways of being when a marriage ends. Contact Katie.

Treasure Finders

Our Covenant version of Sunday School will explode into wonderful new things as we move from the lazy days of summer into a new school year. On August 17 we'll end our Summer Session with a great big

party, and remember to bring your backpack to worship that day and have it (and you) blessed for a new year of learning and growing. On August 24 we get our new year started with "Find the Real Treasure" as we

hunt for what means most. There is no Christian Education Labor Day Weekend, but we'll make up for that with our first September class "Love God" in which our children explore ways in which they too are part of the mission of Covenant.



Praying at Covenant

There are many ways you can participate in our prayer ministries and strengthen your own relationship of prayer with God: Consider joining the Prayer Chain and contact Deb Marsh at 459-4609; Sign up to have a prayer partner; you can get your picture taken and join this ministry on Sun., August 24 between services or at the Block Party; Join us for prayer on Tuesday nights from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in the chapel. Contact Betsy Sebastian at 457-4383 for more information about the Prayer Shawl Circle.

Grown Up Summer Learning

In the Lounge we continue our Forum discussion series "Saving Jesus" as we consider what it means to follow the Living Christ. "Good News and the News" continues to explore the connections between world events and our faith, using scripture and the newspaper to hear our call to live in Christ.

Genocide Lecture

Learn about what we can do in response to the genocide in Darfu. Mark Hanis, Founder and Executive Director of the Genocide Intervention Network will be at Covenant on Thur., August 7 at 7:30 pm in the Lounge. This event is sponsored by The Little Minyan. For information, please check out our church bulletin, our website, or www.littleminyan.org.

Blessing of the Backpacks

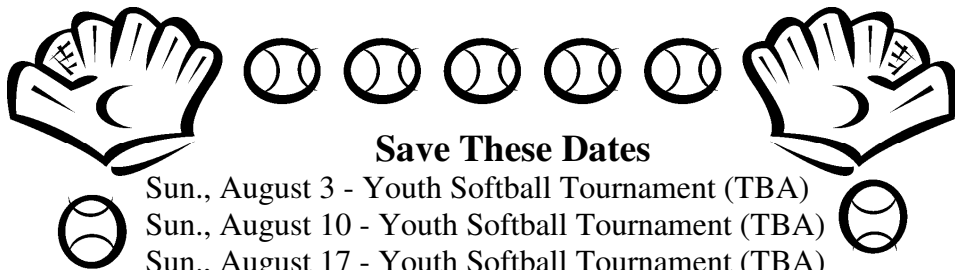
You don't have to be an elementary student to be excited about the energy in the air when a new school year begins. Whether you are five or fifty, we invite you to bring your backpack or briefcase to worship on Sun., August 17 for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Let us help you remember that your work in the world is your Christian vocation and that God calls you to do wonderful things wherever you find yourselves.



Youth

Connections (Middle School) Chi Rho (High School)

Back from mission trips to Pittsburgh, PA and Montana de Luz, Honduras, we are ready to launch into a brand new year of fellowship, fun, and service. Karen Ware Jackson will be here before the end of August and ready to jump right into everything. She will provide everyone with more details.



Save These Dates

- Sun., August 3 - Youth Softball Tournament (TBA)
- Sun., August 10 - Youth Softball Tournament (TBA)
- Sun., August 17 - Youth Softball Tournament (TBA)
- Sun., August 24 - Connections and Chi Rho **End of Summer Bash** 6:00 pm (Place TBA)
- Sun., August 31 - NO CONNECTIONS OR CHI RHO

Deacon News

Deacons' Minutes Highlights

- May 27:** Moderator Deb Marsh presented a devotion on "Trees in the Bible," pointing out that trees have played major roles in religion and are important to our faith.
- o Sally Kolcun reported on April's Greet Your Deacon Sunday. The Deacons tables was visited by 153 people.
 - o Jim Mehler reported with regret the passing of former associate pastor Rick Karns. The Veterans Recognition reception was considered an overwhelming success.
 - o Treasurer Jim Buchanan said that the Deacons' budget figures were on course for the year.
 - o Speaking for the youth deacons, Kadie Koeneman said that an innovative plan to keep graduating seniors connected to Covenant is being developed.
 - o Deb thanked those who helped with the Over-80s event which had a record turnout.
 - o Deacon Jean Scott explained how COMPASS works. Deb proposed that Covenant have a drive to collect new and clean used wash cloths and towels. (See below.)
 - o Rusty Miller spoke about the committee working on the promotion and marketing of Covenant.

- June 24:** Dianne Annis presented a devotion, written 40 years ago, based on "How to Live in Our World Today."
- o Jim Mehler addressed the commissioning service for the Pittsburgh youth project; recognized Michelle Nordine's church service; and noted dates to remember: Blessing of the Backpacks, Aug. 17; Block Party, Aug. 24; Greeter training, Sept. 14. There will be only a 10 am service on Aug. 31.
 - o Deb said that \$1,000 was sent to COMPASS and that Covenant has received several memorial donations. Jean Scott said that clothing donations are being collected to send with the youth for the Honduras trip.
 - o Deb spoke about the Outreach Challenge proposal which was accepted. A committee will look into a slight modification of Fellowship Hall to permit youth basketball clinics and games on Saturday mornings in the winter, along with the possibility of co-ed adult volleyball. Deb asked a rep of UA's Rec and Parks Div. about this.
 - o Jean Scott spoke of a towel drive to help COMPASS. Jim Mehler proposed a COMPASS video be shown on Sept. 28 to kick off the drive.

Towels, Wash Cloths, Socks

Covenant currently provide financial support to COMPASS (Congregational Outreach Ministries Program Assistance and Social Services) a not-for profit agency hosted by Broad Street

Presbyterian Church that offers homelessness prevention services. Covenant was one of the founding congregations and is one of the 20 partner churches which support COMPASS. It has many needs so our deacons are sponsoring two short term "drives": a towel and

gently used wash cloth collection during September and a sock collection during October. Laundry baskets will be in the back of the narthex for donations. The Deacons encourage and thank you for your support of this mission.

News of General Assembly

The 218th General Assembly met in San Jose, CA June 21-28. You may have opened its website during the Assembly. Louise Davidson presented a Forum about it in July. Articles have been in Presbyterian Outlook and other publications of our denomination. Current Elders and staff have the Outlook's summary purchased by Mission Interpretation. Reports have also been in the bulletin's green sheets.

The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, 39, pastor of Mission Bay Community Church in San Francisco was elected Moderator for the two-year term on the first ballot. He is known for his energy and commitment to develop new churches. He promotes pastoral care using the Internet. He "moderated skillfully and established warm rapport with the Assembly." Clifton Kirkpatrick, who served as Stated Clerk for four terms, was replaced by his Senior Associate Clerk, Grady Parsons. Parsons has years of experience with the Assembly and as a pastor and presbytery executive.

The Assembly chose to study a plan to streamline the Form of Government section of the Book of Order. The most controversial issue was the ordination of sexually active gay and lesbian persons. It was decided it will not take effect unless ratified by a majority of the 173 regional presbyteries over the next year. If ratified, people would be expected to "pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through witness of the Scripture and to understand the Scriptures through the instructions of the Confessions." It "voted to clarify the action of the 2006 General Assembly allowing ordination candidates who acknowledge a departure (scruple) from constitutional standards of faith of practice or belief to be considered if the departures are deemed non-essential." The G.A. also rescinded a supplemental foundation of the ordination ban, the Definitive Guidance policy that homosexual practice is not compatible with ordained service, in force since 1978.

Many other issues were discussed, including pay equity, universal health measures, homelessness, human rights in Colombia, solidarity with Christians in Zimbabwe, voting rights, gun violence, global warming, human trafficking, the global food crisis and others.

For more details open www.pres-outlook.org or take an Outlook "Shaking & Moving" flier, or ask Suzie Shoemaker for a copy of the Outlook's eight-page Witherspoon Society report.



Living Greener

Buy Green.

Shop at local farmers' markets. Produce is higher quality, and it saves energy by reducing fuels needed to transport.

Consider garage sales and thrift stores for clothing and other items. Skip bot-

tled water and filter your tap water.

Bottles produce too much waste.

Smart landscaping. Plant shade trees to help heat and cool your house. Explore homemade pesticides. Water deeply once a week; not every day.

Use a push mower and let clippings

compost on the lawn

Make cleaning supplies using baking soda, soap and vinegar.

Transportation. Consolidate several errands into one trip, share rides, walk, bike or take the bus.

Women of Covenant: Join a Circle

Circles are small groups that do Bible study, mission projects, and enjoy the company of each other.

Circles meet the first week of each month September through June. The Bible study this year is published by *Horizons Magazine* and titled "Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor." Here are meeting times and contacts:

-*Eunice-Lydia Circle*: 1st Wed., 9:15 am, lounge; Betsy Sebastian, 457-4383

-*Martha Circle*: 1st Wed., 9:15 am, Room 121; Diana Sanders, 847-4431 (this is also the sewing circle)

-*Mary Circle*: 1st Wed., 12:15 pm in members' homes; Paula Hamilton, 451-4405

-*Miriam Circle*: 1st Thurs., 9:30 am, lounge; Carol Carr, 457-4238

-*Naomi Circle*: 1st Wednesday, 7:30 pm in members' homes; Judy Oeder, 459-2231

-*Young Women's Circle*: For information and time, contact Katie Kinnison.

-*Prayer Shawl Circle*: 2nd and 4th Fridays, lounge; Betsy Sebastian, 457-4383. (This Circle does not do Bible study. We knit prayer shawls and pray for those for whom we have concerns and prayer requests.)

Join us in September or whenever is convenient. For information or if you're interested in forming a new Circle at a more convenient time or with particular interests, contact Betsy Sebastian, CPW Moderator, 457-4383.

Other News continued

Clerk's Corner: June Session

Statistics Baptism: Mallory Lynne Allen (4-20-08), Dayne Franklin Schmidt. Marriage: Kim Allen Shealy, Kelli Diane Cruea (3-29-08). Restoration of Membership: Alan and Jaclyn Hinig Yarleets. Deaths: Dale Dean Curtis (3-18-08), Stanley Edward Davis (3-25-08), Raymond C. Burton (NM) 4-13-08, Sue Gibson (4-19-08), Meredith Christine Beck Kloss (5-12-08), Richard Eldon Karns (5-27-08). New Members: Susan Campbell Benton, Christine Ann Charlton, Lindel Waugh McCarty, John Wilford McCarty.

Peanut Brittle Time Is Coming in September

Take advantage of sales on sugar and margarine and then put them in the kitchen. Thanks to everyone who has been bringing empty coffee cans all year long.

Mission Year Book It's not too late to place your order for the Mission Year Book for Prayer and Study. The deadline for placing an order is Fri., August 15. Order directly through the presbytery office. Contact Dagmar Romage, presbytery office, 847-0565 or 800/244-7207; e-mail Dagmar@psvonline.org

The **Mission Sewing Group (Martha Circle)** will not meet in August. The next meeting will be Tues., September 2 at 1 pm and is open to all women of the church. We work on many projects, including a quilt given away at the Thanksgiving gathering. Call Diana Sanders, 847-4431.

CPW Says 'Thank You' to all who attended the Spaghetti Dinner and Variety Show, those who cooked, set up, decorated, served, cleaned up, made costumes and performed, and to Anna Jo Beeson, Kay Graham, Sandy Tullett, and Weldon Adams for their work with the performers and cooks.

Congratulations to Al Kennedy and Marcia Herrold for receiving Honorary Lifetime memberships in Presbyterian Women. Al has tirelessly helped with every aspect of the garage sale, delivered Open Shelter lunches, and was eager to help whenever needed.

Staff Reports Reviewed wedding plans for Christine Van Aman, July 19 and Maura Mueller, August 23. Jim Mehler reported visiting hospitals and older adult facilities, noting that more than 80 people attended the Older Adult Luncheon in May. Michele Nordine reported that she and her husband, Nathan, will move to Hannibal, OH in July to start new appointments in the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Other Reports Mission and Social Concerns said the next Habitat for Humanity house will start the end of August or later as the crew chief, John Fisher, had knee surgery. Nurture and Outreach announced the Block Party will be after the 11 am service on August 24. The Personnel Committee's proposed changes in the Personnel Manual was approved by Session. Stewardship and Budget presented the status of the Stewardship Drive for the 2008-09 fiscal year which was at 89% of goal.

Paul Morton, Clerk

Marcia's knowledge and guidance have greatly helped our organization grow.

Attention Knitters



Whether a beginner or a pro, the Prayer Shawl Circle needs you. We meet every 2nd and 4th Friday, 9:30 to 11 am in the Lounge. This is a ministry of prayer and knits prayer shawls for those in need. We have yarn and if can't come to meetings, you may knit at home. Call Betsy Sebastian, 457-4383.

Mini-bear Workshop On Mon., August 4 at 7:00 pm in Room 120, Covenant Crafters will gather to share the joy of working on our Mission Project - knitted mini-Teddy bears. Call Donna Harder, 847-6039, or Lynn Elliott, 459-2011, with questions.

Men of Covenant Covenant Presbyterian Women would like to say a special thank you to the men of Covenant who have been so giving of time and assistance over the years—helping set ups at events, clean-up, and general assistance. Your help is appreciated.

Thanks for Blood Donations and your support of the Board of Deacon's Summer Blood Drive in July. We surpassed our goal and collected 27 units, which can potentially save 81 lives. Once again, blood donors and volunteers came through. You are the best!

Primetimers' annual breakfast will be at Fancyburg Park, Aug. 16, 8:30-11:00 am. It is a potluck.

In Sympathy

The Covenant congregation extends its sympathies to the families of Al Livingston who passed away on June 18, Rick Karns and Bill Herron on May 27, Sue Gibson on April 23 and Jane Miller on July 3.



Worship & Music in August

Summer Services: No Sunday night services in August.
8:30 am services held in our beautiful courtyard...weather permitting.

August 3—18th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Communion

Sermon "Blessing in the Struggle" Genesis 32:22-31 (Romans 9:1-5) Tracy Keenan preaching

Music: Vacation Bible School children sing for worship at 11:00 am
 "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown," Candler, Arr. Weldon Adams
 "Simple Song" (from Mass), Leonard Bernstein Scott Henning, Soloist
 "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown," Candler, Arr. Larry Shackley
 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," Cwm Rhondda, Arr. Larry Shackley Weldon Adams, Piano

August 10—19th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Youth Sunday / Lemonade Sunday

Sermon "Wisdom from Honduras" Youth preaching

Music: Tracy Keenan playing piano

August 17—20th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Blessing of the Backpacks / Annual Meeting

Sermon "Baby in the Basket" Exodus 1:8-2:10 (Psalm 124) Tracy Keenan preaching

Music: John McCarty playing Piano; Nancy Davidson playing Organ; Rodolfo Vazquez playing Flute

August 24—21st Sunday in Ordinary Time / Block Party / Last Outdoor Service Tracy Keenan preaching

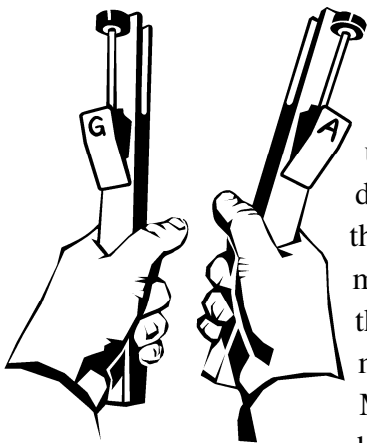
Sermon "Watching That Mouth" Matthew 15:10-20 (Psalm 133)

Music: Scott Henning, Soloist
 "Partita on *Auf meinen lieben Gott*" Dietrich Buxtehude Weldon Adams, Organ

August 31—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Times / One Service at 10:00am

Sermon "The Great I Am" Exodus 3:1-15 (Matthew 16:21-28) Tracy Keenan preaching

Music: "Hymn," Christa Phelps Cora Kuyvenhoven, Cello
 "O Rest in the Lord" (from Elijah), Felix Mendelssohn Martin Spencer, Soloist; Cora Kuyvenhoven, Cello
 "Prelude in C Major," Camille Saint-Saëns Weldon Adams, Organ



NEW CHOIRCHIMES

Thanks to a generous gift from an anonymous donor the Campanile Bell Choir now has five new large bass choirchimes (those are the long, square-sectioned instruments often used with the handbells). These new chimes will add a deep bass sound, full of rich fundamental tone when used below the higher Choirchimes. These bass chimes are so large that they are arranged in a floor stand and played with a separate mallet. There are seven more Choirchimes available below these that remain on the gift list. When we acquire those last seven, we will have the full range of Choirchimes available. The lowest chimes may be purchased as a unit or one at a time. See Weldon Adams, Nancy Davidson or Marsha Martin if you are interested in supplying one or all of these for the bell choir. Many thanks to the anonymous donor for this generous gift.

Salt & Light

Hands-On Local Mission:

Open Shelter Help the Deacons provide toiletries for homeless residents. Sample sizes are preferred, but all sizes help. There is a "Hygiene Kits" box inside the door of the Pastors' area. Items needed: soap, sample sizes of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, toothpaste/brushes, disposable razors.

Mission Opportunities

Summer has Salt & Light opportunities like Habitat homes, lunches for homeless, SOS pantry efforts. Find out more from sign-up sheets, posters and mission presentations. Think about participating. Watch for letters from our Mission co-workers, read bulletin inserts or contact Karen Hjelm, 326-1433.

Signs that an older person needs help

- Frequent hospitalizations
- Change in appetite, weight loss or gain
- Change in behavior: no participation/stays home
- Increase in home health care or home making help
- Change in medication
- Increase in falls/near falls, trouble walking; hugs walls
- Change from cane to walker
- Increase in swelling of legs and ankles
- Change in personality
- Increased shortness of breath
- Increased time in bed and/or chair
- Decreased energy and cognitive ability
- Sores or red marks on legs or wounds/skin breakdown
- Increase in 911 calls and or emergency room visits

September 2008 Issue of Your Communicator

September issue info should be emailed by Mon., August 11, to JP: joanpogalies@covenantpcusa.org. Include all contact information and what, when, who, where, how and why. The September *Communicator* will be assembled for mailing on Thur., August 21 at 9 am in Fellowship Hall. We'd love your help. To volunteer call us at 451-6677.

Church Office: 614-451-6677 Fax: 614-451-1326

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Website: www.covenantpcusa.org

Covenant Leadership Team

Tracy Keenan, Senior Pastor

Weldon Adams, Minister of Music

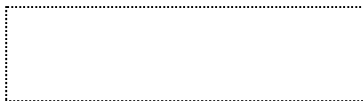
Katie Kinnison, Director of Christian Education

James Mehler, Parish Associate

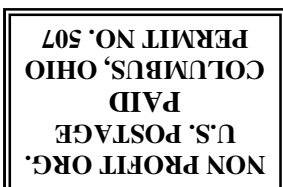
Ingrid Brooker, Financial & Membership Administrator

JP Pogalies, Communications Administrator

Lloyd Muench, Facilities Manager



Please call the church office with your new address.
As bulk mail, the *Communicator* is not forwarded and
is returned to the church at a cost of 82 cents.



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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