



Your *Communicator*

Covenant Presbyterian Church

May 2009

If there is one thing that Holy Week impressed upon my heart this year, it is this: If our faith cannot hold up during hard times, then it is not much of a faith. And if the church cannot do what it is supposed to do during hard times, then it isn't much of a church, either.

I rejoice that Covenant is a place where we trust God to bring us through anything, and we trust one another to rise to the occasion, whatever the need. We are preparing our plans for the coming program and fiscal year at the same time as the news about the economy has us all feeling uncertain. But we can be certain that the needs that are met by our ministry are going to be there, perhaps even more intensely than before. People are going to need tangible help, meaningful support, and real encouragement. We have to be certain that we are there, that we are where we are needed, and that Covenant will be the church it is called to be.

LOVE THROUGH ACTION is the theme for this year's stewardship campaign. It is true that love is not love until it is acted upon. Love without action is nothing... it consists of mere platitudes and vague

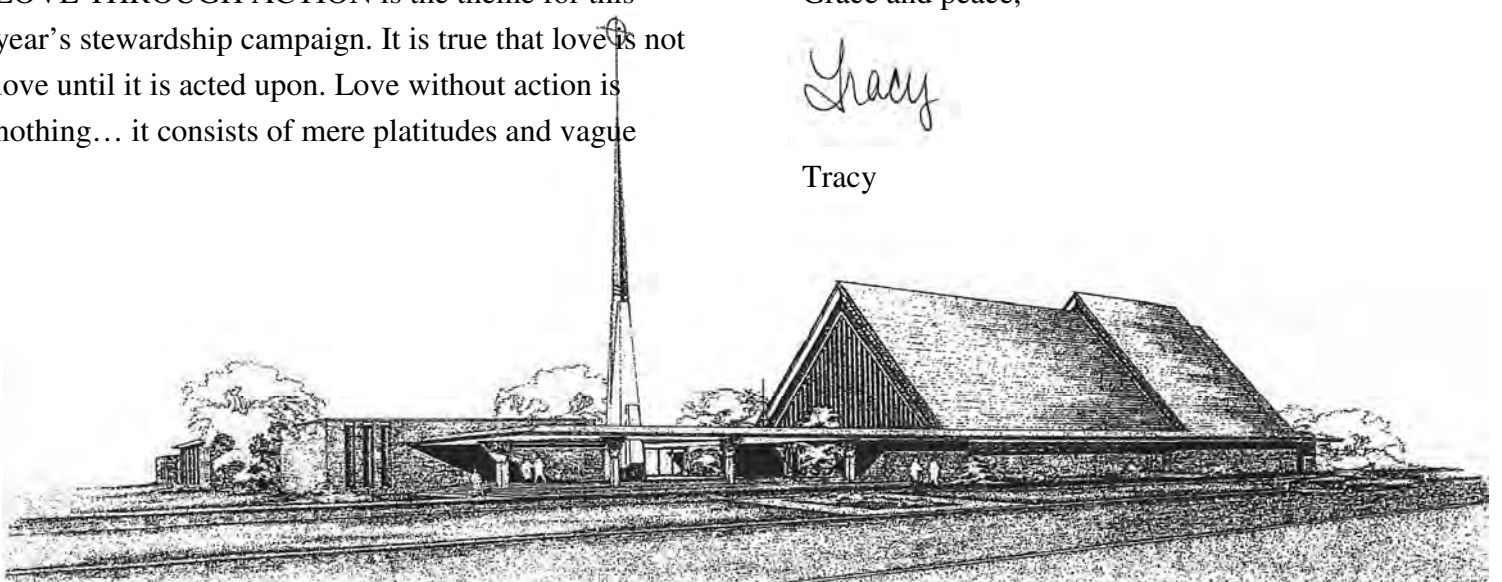
intentions. But love enacted is love that is made real. It is the kind of love Jesus Christ demonstrated in his life, and God brought out of his death. The love we celebrate and seek to follow is love that will not let us down. It is love that will not let us let others down.

Dedication Sunday is May 10. We invite you to bring your pledge card to church that morning and bring it forward as a sign of your commitment to make Covenant a church that is there for folks, even and especially when times are hard. No matter what your income, you can give a fraction of it back to the work of God's love. The biblical standard of giving is 10 percent, and many of us have worked up to that — some even more. Don't be afraid to put your faith and love into action.

Please make sure that the church does the work it is supposed to be doing. Remember, if it can't hold up during hard times, what use is it?

Grace and peace,

Tracy



Sunday Morning Education Hour 9:45 am

FORUM:

- May 3 "Presbyterians and the Polity of Ordination" by Tracy Keenan
- May 10 "Finding Life in the Wisdom Literature of the Bible" by Katie Kinnison
- May 17 "Judaism and Prayer" by Jessica Lind from the Little Minyan
- May 24 TBA
- May 31 "Islam and Prayer" by Asma Mobinuddin

CHILDREN: **Treasure Finders**, Room 104, Children three years through fifth grade

YOUTH: **TV Gospel**, Karen's Office



Katie's Corner

If you have put God in a box, you won't find God there now. Go ahead. Open it. The box is empty.

Our God has burst the bonds of sin and death, for Christ is risen, and everything is new. Nothing is as it was. Living Water cannot be contained, and God will not stay put. Christ is on the move.

May we not be left behind on the path. May we leave our excess baggage behind and go forth on the way, ever

discovering our God again, opening our eyes and realizing that we are, indeed, in the presence of the Holy One. It is time to hear the parables with new ears. It is time to let justice flow like waters. It is time to search the scriptures and find our way into wholeness, for us and for the world.

Let us be people of the Way, Easter people, who walk through death and find life. For our God is the Living God, and nothing will ever be the same again.

Spiritual Cinema

Mon., May 18, 6:30 pm, Lounge

The Spiritual Cinema Group will view three short films focused on shifting perceptions. *It's My Turn* and *Common Practice* will challenge our perceptions without a single word of (understandable) dialog. The third, *Flatland*, focuses on our perceptions of space itself. Join us as we explore various dimensions through this use of cinema under the leadership of Linda Gabel. For information contact Beth Askue, 459-1445, or Susan Imel, 262-7444.

**Treasure Finders and Summer Sunday School
Sundays, 9:45am, Fellowship Hall**

Our regular school-year sessions of Treasure Finders will conclude with a party on Sun., June 7, but that doesn't mean the fun ends. Children from three years old through fifth grade are invited to join Shane Spicer in Room 104 each Sunday morning for an hour of stories, crafts, and games. We'll be using some DVD clips to get our time started. We may also have fun on the playground, so dress appropriately and put on some sunscreen!

Bass Book **Wed., May 6, 6 pm, Lower Level**
Christianity for the Rest of Us explores qualities of vibrant mainline congregations and helps us think about how Covenant shares God's love with the world. Copies are available at church for \$12 each, but you can come and be part of the conversation without doing homework! Dinner will be 6-6:30 pm, followed by a brief talk about the book and then lots of conversation about the dreams and hopes for our church.

Sunday Night Bible Study 6:30 pm, Room 120 (7 pm, 1st Sun. after evening service)

Experience bible study that is all about listening for God's word so that we can go out into the world living God's love. Katie leads this study, so call her with any questions.

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast Sun., May 31, 9:45 am, Fellowship Hall

All Treasure Finder families are invited to join us for a lovely brunch as we celebrate our teachers. Please RSVP to Katie Kinnison.

Vacation Bible School (VBS): Discovery Canyon

July 27-31, 9 am-noon

Please make sure your calendars have these VBS dates with gold stars and splendor upon them. VBS children are from three years old through those entering fifth grade. Our picnic and program will be Thurs., July 30, at 6 pm. We will need lots of loving help from grown ups and youth, so please plan on being here. You won't want to miss the fun. Note the following dates:

Sun., July 12 Teacher's Lunch and Meeting

Sat., July 18 VBS Work Day: Building Sets/Painting Signs

Sat., July 25 VBS Work Day: Building Sets/Painting Signs

Covenant Men: Connecting With God

Sat., May 30, 8-9 am, Lounge

A gathering for men interested in exploring their relationship with God over breakfast. Topic: "Meeting God In Scripture." The Bible is all about life "with God." It is about how God has made this "with God" life possible. Often we approach the Bible on an analytical level rather than a means to learn about and encounter God. A key to this is to relate the Bible to our own experience. Eggs, oatmeal and coffee provided. You can bring a breakfast "item" to share. See posters and flyers or contact Jim Mehler jimmehler@covenantpcusa.org.

Food & Faith Sun., May 3, noon, Lounge

Join us for a lovely lunch and a discussion of the food theories of Marc Bittman, New York Times food critic and author of Food Matters: A Guide to Conscious Eating. RSVP to the church office or Katie Kinnison so that we have plenty of food.

Food & Faith Field Summer Trips

Mark these dates on your calendars: June 13 (the North Market); July 18 (TBA); Aug. 1 (Worthington Farmers' Market). For each of these, we'll meet at the church in the morning and carpool to our location. We'll finish our adventure with lunch. Stay tuned to bulletins and the website for more info. RSVP Susan Imel, 262-7444, or Katie Kinnison.

At the end of this month, we will celebrate Pentecost, when the disciples received the Holy Spirit. It came like a rush of violent wind, blown straight from heaven to fill the entire room. The wind seemed to stir up a holy fire which rested on each of them and allowed them to speak in other languages. Ever the faithful disciples, they took this gift to the streets proclaiming the good news to all in their native tongue and baptizing about 3,000 people! That's pretty amazing! I mean, that's some serious Holy Spirit! That's the kind of Holy Spirit that grabs hold of everyone and demands attention,

which displays God's power in a way so miraculous and so different that it cannot be ignored.

I don't know about you, but my experiences with the Holy Spirit are rarely so intense. A gentle breeze may change my course, a whisper gives me pause, or the right words come unbidden to my lips. When I lived in Hollywood, many of my neighbors were Latin American immigrants who spoke very little English and, while I do speak some rudimentary Spanish, it's certainly not enough to build a relationship. Still, we would sit for hours – talking, laughing, sharing our stories, our

hopes and fears for the youth of our community – each of us speaking and understanding some "in-between" language. It might not be as impressive as the disciples on Pentecost, but it was certainly the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a gift to us: a comforter in times of pain and fear; an advocate in times of adversity and confusion; a reconciler in times of anger and conflict. We encounter her in worship and in service, in Church and on the streets, in crowds and all-alone. These experiences may be subtle or intense, but they are always miraculous.— Karen Ware Jackson

Senior Sunday!

If you are graduating from a degree program this year, let us know so that we can recognize your achievement! Contact Karen for more info.

May 17

Important Dates for Youth

May 3 12:30-1pm, Service meal project for Blessing of the Bikes
May 9 8:30-11am, Walk for Faith @ the zoo
3pm, Faith Night, Cleveland Indians game, meet at church
May 10 Mothers' Day, no youth group
May 17 Senior Recognition, reception after church
1-2pm, Confirmation
May 31 12:30-2pm, Confirmation

Deacon News

Board of Deacons met in regular session April 29. Jeff DuBois requested help for the Ronald McDonald House breakfast. They are held the first Saturday of the month between 7-9 am. They have been a real success and everyone involved has enjoyed the experience. Call Jeff, 481-7579.

Deacons are collecting toiletries: soap, shampoo, tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorant and razors. Full size toiletries will be donated to COMPASS for their distribution and travel size toiletries will be donated to our ongoing homeless mission. Put your donations in the laundry baskets and we'll see that they are delivered to those in need. Thank you!

Deacons' Blood Drives: Mon., July 13 & Mon., Oct. 26

Other News

Seeking Future Leaders of the Church

The Church Nominating Committee is beginning its annual search for the future leaders of Covenant Presbyterian Church. We are seeking nominations of people who would be good candidates for Elders, Deacons, Youth Deacons and Church Nominating Committee Members. You need not be a long-time member or have prior experience or have served in a leadership role. What is needed is a deep love of God and a strong desire to use your time and talents to serve God through work as a church officer and on a commission. We are particularly looking for people who want to help Covenant grow its programming for our young children. Interested? Don't be shy. You can self-nominate or nominate someone that you think would be good, but please ask the person first. See the enclosed nomination form for more details.

Birthday Offering

Wed., May 13

During this meeting of Covenant Presbyterian Women, the Birthday Offering will be received. This offering has been in existence since it was begun in 1922 by Hallie Paxson Winsborough who lived in Ohio. She had visited Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan, and discovered it needed many things. She challenged members of the Women's Auxiliary to contribute a penny for each year of their lives, or a dollar if they didn't want others to know their age. The name of the organization was changed to Women of the Church in 1948 and to Presbyterian Women in 1988. At that time, the name of the offering was changed to the Birthday Offering.

Each year the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of PW reviews the applications and selects no more than

five recipients before the offering is received. This year it was decided to limit it to two projects so that the grants will be larger, to make a greater impact. The ones chosen are located where the 2008 Global Exchange went to Eastern Europe, and the 2008 USA Mission Experience women went to the border region of Texas and Mexico. The one in Europe is the Children's Home for Orphans in the Ukraine and the one in El Paso, Texas, is La Mujer Obrera that responds to the needs of thousands of Mexican immigrant women who make and sell products. It will also train them about how to start and sustain a business.

The goal for this year's offering is \$800,000 which "translates" to the need for each Presbyterian woman to make as generous a contribution as possible. Please assist these two major projects.

Narthex Sculpture

You have probably already seen the striking new sculpture in the Narthex. It is a globe made of bronze, brass, and copper, held in a cradling arc, and bathed in a baptism of water running over its surface. Sometimes before or after the worship service, I see children standing around it, placing the palms of their hands on the globe and allowing the water to run through their fingers. It evokes thoughts of God's

covenantal waters blessing the earth, God's love embracing the world, and the living waters of faith. Sculptor Thomas Yano is the artist who designed and created this piece. From Vermillion, Ohio, this second-generation sculptor has been experimenting in this medium since 1973 — metalsmithing, hot forging, stretching and compressing. It is a

one-of-a-kind piece, commissioned and purchased with gifts given in memory of Alan Livingston, who was one of Covenant's first members, and a strong leader here for over 50 years.

Come enjoy this gorgeous piece, either in meditative quiet or when the church family is there at its liveliest! Remember your own baptism and let it speak to you of God's redeeming grace for all the world. —Tracy Keenan

Have You Brought Two Friends to Church Yet?

Introduce two friends to what God is doing at Covenant, two people who do not already belong to another congregation. You don't have to bring them both the same day. You might have to invite 40 people before the first friend accepts. Pick up a form on the welcome table.



Churchwide Gathering of PW July 11-15, Louisville, KY

The excitement is building for the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering. There will be great speakers, workshops, and inspiring worship. Song leader is Tracy Keenan. There is a \$50 discount if you register by May 15, and

special conference hotel rates to take advantage of, so how about a vacation in Louisville? Registration booklets with details are on the information table in the hall.

CPW Birthday Lunch/Program Wed., May 13, 11:45 am

Join us in the Lounge for a salad luncheon followed by the program presented by our own Louise Davidson on "What's New with PW: Perspectives on the Churchwide Coordinating Team." Louise has been Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace on the 2006–2009 Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women. She will share her varied experiences. The birthday offering will also be received and dedicated, and the CPW officers for next year will be installed. Cost is \$6. Contact Susan Imel, susanimel1@gmail.com, or call the church office at 451-6677 for a reservation.

Don't forget to get your beautiful face in Covenant's new pictorial directory!

More photo sessions are scheduled for May 6-9. If you haven't made an appointment, call Olan Mills directly at 1-800-866-2263, and use Covenant's code number: 37840. You get a free 8x10 photo as a bonus, plus you can order more if you choose. You can also schedule other sessions for portraits with family members who are not members. Remember, these directories are used for 4-5 years, so make sure we have you in it.

Interested in Music, Drama, Arts or Dance?

Worship and Arts Commission is looking for new Commission members with interest and ideas about how to enrich our worship services through the use of music, dance, drama and art. Worship and Arts' mission is to nurture faith through the expression of the Word, sacraments, music and arts. No special musical, artistic or dramatic talent is required, just a real interest in enriching the worship services. Contact Marsha Martin, 888-9966, marsha.j.martin@usa.dupont.com.

Other News

1st Annual Blessing of the Bikes & Riders

Sun., May 3, 12:30pm

Motorcycle, scooter, bicycle, tricycle enthusiasts are invited. There is no requirement for make, style or size, and independent riders are encouraged to attend. Bring your "ride" or just your helmet for blessing. Dogs and suds (root beer) will follow.

If I had a Hammer.....

Join the Presbytery of Scioto Valley Mission Trip to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to help victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in rebuilding their homes Oct.10-17. Contact Betsy or Bob Tannehill, Dave Seifert, Mona Connolly, Susan Imel, or Jay McLean (all participants in the 2008 trip to the same location) for particulars about what to expect. There are jobs for all skill levels. Information from the Presbytery will be coming soon. Join your Presbyterian sisters and brothers for this important, life-affirming gift of your time. Betsy Tannehill, 488-7587; betsy@columbus.rr.com

Mouth of the Wolf Drama Classes for Children

Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm

Class I Ages 4-8 Packed into a Pea! Eight-week class. Students will create an original production of *The Princess and the Pea*, explore the art of script analysis and learn how to move on stage. Maximum class is 20 students. Class II Ages 9-16 Shorts Never Felt so Br"easy"! Eight-week class. Students will perform a version of the classic *James and the Giant Peach*, learn stage blocking and how to analyze a script. Maximum class is 25 students. \$100 per student for each eight-week class, \$15 sibling discount. Visit mouthofthewolfproductions.com or email gleason.tina@gmail.com.

Living Faith Awards Breakfast

Thurs., May 28, 8-9:30 am, Capital U

The Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Council and Honorary Chairperson, Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, are holding the 18th Annual Living Faith Awards Breakfast for recipients of the 2009 Living Faith Awards. Presenter will be Tracy Townsend of Ch. 10 News. Among the award recipients will be Covenant member Al Kennedy. If you are interested in attending this event and sitting at a table reserved for Covenant, please send your check for \$25 made out to "CMACC" by May 16 to Sheila Seifert, 1171 Langland Dr., Columbus, OH 43220. Call 457-3094. This is a great honor and we hope many of you will be there to support Al.

PiYo, Mon., 1:30 pm, Lounge

Play Bridge: May 31, 2 pm, Lounge

Singles will be paired. Bring a snack to share and a cold drink for yourself. No reservations. Anne or Dick Rorapaugh 740-881-9934.

Habitat for Humanity Help build one house each year, working on Saturdays, 8:15 am-3:30. Call Dave Fecht 451-9770.

Tutor Program, Wed., 4-5:30 pm, Lower Level Tutors may work with the child they choose. Volunteers are

asked to help about an hour a week when schools are in session. They are oriented, background checked (a simple paper to fill out), and guided by director Judy Oeder. The program ends mid-May. Volunteers may start anytime. Sign up on the Salt 'n' Light sheet in the hall.

Worship & Music in May

May 3 Communion

Sermon	“Dangers, Toils, and Snares in the World of Sheepdom” 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18	Tracy Keenan preaching
Choral	“For Where Love Is, There Is God ” “Lord, You Are Light ”	Beach Spring, Arr. Doug Wagner John Leavitt Early Birds Chancel Choir; Scott Henning, Soloist
Instrumental		Dave Powers, Jazz Piano
6:00 pm	ALTERNATIVE EVENING SERVICE	Karen Ware Jackson preaching

May 10 Stewardship Dedication Sunday / Mothers’ Day

Sermon	“Practical Traction” Acts 8:26-40; John 15:1-8	Tracy Keenan preaching
Choral	“Feed My Lambs” “Through Our Beating Hearts Remind Us” “Sweet Music”	Linda Cable Shute German Hymn, Arr. Rene Clausen Spiritual, Arr. Russell Shultz-Widmar Early Birds Chancel Choir Early Birds, Chancel Choir
Instrumental	“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship” “O How I Love Jesus”	William Moore, Arr. Matt Limbaugh Traditional Amer, Arr. Matt Limbaugh John McCarty, Piano John McCarty, Piano

May 17 Senior Sunday (Older Adults and Graduates)

Sermon	“Conquering the World” Acts 10:44-48; 1 John 5:1-6	Tracy Keenan preaching
Choral	“And Jesus Said” “We Will Rejoice”	Tony Alonso Roy Hopp Early Birds Chancel Choir
Instrumental	“To God Be the Glory” “The Voice of Rejoicing”	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski Valerie W. Stephenson Campanile Bell Choir Campanile Bell Choir

May 24 Presbyterian Heritage Sunday

Sermon	“Entrusted” John 17:6/19	Karen Ware Jackson preaching
Choral	“Deep Waters” Pepper Choplin	Early Birds; Chancel Choir
Instrumental		Rodolfo Vazquez, Flute

May 31 Pentecost Sunday

Sermon	“The Holy Spirit: A Biography” Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Acts 2: 1-21	Katie Kinnison preaching
Choral	“Every Time I Feel the Spirit” “Hymn of the Spirit”	Spiritual, Arr. Earlene Rentz Russell Nagy Early Birds Chancel Choir
Instrumental		String Quartet, Cora Kuyvanhoven and others

Salt & Light

Hands-On Local Mission: Open Shelter

Help Mission and Social Concerns provide toiletries for the homeless. Sample sizes are preferred, but all sizes help: toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, toiletry kits. Drop items in the "Hygiene Kits" basket in the

Pastors' area. To help assemble kits, contact Elizabeth Young, 795-0724, elwebster@gmail.com,

Mission Opportunities

May continues to bring Salt & Light opportunities for missions such as lunches for homeless and SOS pantry

efforts. Find out more from mission presentations, sign-up sheets and posters on the Salt & Light Board in the narthex or hall. Consider participating, because every one-time effort matters. Watch for letters from Mission co-workers and read bulletin inserts. Sandy Pritz, 451-6898.

June Issue of *Your Communicator*

June issue info should be emailed by Mon., May 11, to JP: joanpogalies@covenantpcusa.org. Include all contact information and what, when, who, where, how and why. The *Communicator* will be assembled for mailing on Thur., May 21 at 9 am in Fellowship Hall and we would love your help. 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

Karen Ware Jackson, Assoc. Pastor

Weldon Adams, Minister of Music

Katie Kinnison, Director of Christian Education

James Mehler, Parish Associate

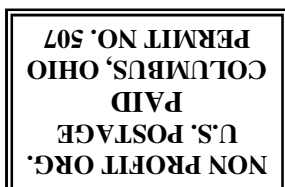
Ingrid Brooker, Financial & Membership Administrator

JP Pogalies, Communications Administrator

Lloyd Muench, Facilities Manager



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