



# Your Communicator

## Covenant Presbyterian Church

December 2011, January, February 2012



Dear Covenant friends and family,

There is a decidedly buoyant feeling around the church

these days. Is it because I am writing this just before Thanksgiving? Is it because the Christmas decorations are soon to be hung? Is it because the newly cold weather is giving us new appreciation for gathering together in snug community? I think it's more than that.

Amid the preparations for seasonal changes, there are whiffs of optimism, glances full of possibility, and even moments of sheer joy. Perhaps it is the new faces popping up in the crowd of familiar ones. Perhaps it is the growing participation in the plans for upgrades and renovations that are being planned. Perhaps it is plethora of opportunities for hands-on mission and spiritual nourishment we are sharing. But I think it's even more than that.

I think it is because we are developing a shared sense of potential, that we can actually be the community God is calling us to be. Sure,

we are still a church filled with imperfect human beings who make mistakes and find plenty of practice when it comes to forgiveness, but there is a stronger sense that we are imperfect human beings through whom God can do wondrous things.

In church, we don't celebrate that we finally have it all figured out. We celebrate that we are loved, this world is loved, and THAT is the good news that we share. We have tangible ways to share and intangible as well. We can give and serve and help. We can listen and understand and forgive.

We don't have it all figured out, nor do we get it right all the time. But we have a place to be who we are and practice the ways of the children of God, imperfectly and magnificently!

May this winter season be one of continued blessing as we celebrate the coming of the Christ into the ordinary days of our lives.

Grace and peace,

*Tracy*  
Tracy

**Covenant Events:**  
For updates to happenings at Covenant see your weekly Tuesday or Thursday e-newsletter, Deacon mailings or check our web site:  
[www.covenantpcusa.org](http://www.covenantpcusa.org)

### Winter Issue Highlights



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**Katie's Corner** - So, what are you hungry for?

As I write this, we're approaching Thanksgiving and the holidays of endless eating. We'll each have our cravings and those brief moments thinking we'll never need to eat again, and we'll eat things that remind us of people we love. Some of us will come out of the season on diets. Food matters to us for more than nutrition; food can feed us in many different ways.

So, when Jesus says things like "I have food you don't know about" or "I can give you water to drink so that you'll never thirst again," we may not understand entirely what he means, but some part of us knows that we too need a food and drink beyond the tangible.

So, tell me about your thirst. What are you hungry for?

"As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God." (Psalm 42) I believe that there are empty places, wounded places inside each of us that only God can satisfy and heal. When we ignore those needs within us, we move away from life and love and peace and power – away from God.

The Church should be a place, a community, where the hungry eat and are satisfied and where the parched quench their thirsts. As we enter into Advent and begin the new church year, may we each and all look for new ways to feed the poor in Spirit. May we hunger and thirst for justice.

*Katie Kinnison, [katherinekinnison@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:katherinekinnison@covenantpcusa.org)*

**Covenant Night at the Zoo Thur., Dec. 8, 5:30-7:30pm**

Come be dazzled by the lights and check out the animals, but the real fun is in finding other people from Covenant and sharing some Christmas joy with them. Our church staff will be hanging out at various locations for half an hour each; they'll have bags of special treats, hugs and laughter for all. Learn details on our website or in the church bulletin, bring your friends, and don't miss this adventure.

**Wrapping Party Sun., Dec. 18, 7pm, Lounge**



We'll provide appetizers and something to drink, tape and scissors. You bring the unwrapped gifts and the pretty paper. Together we'll get one more thing crossed off our to do list, and we'll laugh and share along the way.

Questions? Contact Katie or Karen

**The Longest Night Tues., Dec. 20, 7pm, Sanctuary**

This season is not all merry, and sometimes grief and other sorts of heartache can make these long nights lonely and cold. Come, worship with us, and bring the cares of your soul to God. Together, we will acknowledge all that we feel as we await the Light coming into the darkness of this world and our own lives. Beloved of God and knit together in the love of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we are never left alone in our pain.

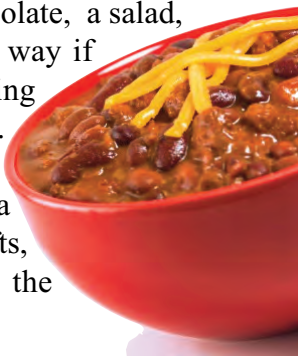
**Treasure Finders' Epiphany Party**

**Sun., Jan. 8, 9:45am Fellowship Hall**

This is one more opportunity for our children to celebrate the joy of Christmas as we revel in the wonder of the magi. Bring your friends.

**Chili & Chocolate Sat., Jan. 21, 6pm in Fellow. Hall**

Bring a pot of chili, something chocolate, a salad, some fruit. Pick up a pizza on the way if you'd like. Just bring something yummy to share with good friends. We'll set up tables, eat together, talk, and watch children play. This is a simple time to enjoy God's good gifts, and there is room for everyone at the table. Bring your friends.



**Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast Sun., Feb. 19, 9-11am**

Get ready for Lent with one last party and join us in Fellowship Hall as Chris Cakes gets those flapjacks flying onto your plate.



**Sunday Morning Education Hour - 9:45 am** - Contact Katie Kinnison



### **ADULT SPIRITUALITY & LEARNING**

- **The Forum**, Lounge - A variety of speakers and topics:

Dec. 4            *Christmas Carol Origins and Stories*, Rob Rucker  
Dec. 11          *Christmas Carol Origins and Stories*, Rob Rucker  
Dec. 18          Hymn Sing  
Dec. 25          No Forum - Merry Christmas  
Jan. 1            No Forum - Happy New Year  
Jan. 8-Feb. 12 *Great Thinkers of the Church and Why You Should Care*  
Feb. 19          Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast

- **Lay Led Bible Study**, Room 120 – Taking December off, but will resume in January

- **Parents Lounge**, Room 102 – Parents share your lives, laugh some, and support one another.

### **CHILDREN**

- **Birth to 3 years of age**: Nursery, 8:15am-12:30pm
- **3 years through 3rd grade**: *Treasure Finders*, Fellowship Hall



#### **Joy Gym Continues                      Fridays 9:30-11am**

This turned out to be a great idea. When the weather gets a bit nippy, maybe too rainy or cold to play outside, we open up Fellowship Hall, cart down toys from the nursery, and play. We have juice boxes, gold fish crackers and fruit to fortify ourselves, but mostly, grown-ups bring children, and we play, run, build, talk and laugh. Simply fun! All are welcome. Help us spread the word in the neighborhood, and come play with us.

#### **Family Game Night Sat., Feb. 25, 5-7pm, Fellow. Hall**

We'll order pizza and pick up something healthy to nibble on. We'll gather some games, and then we'll be ready. Bring a game if you'd like, but just come. RSVP to Katie or Karen, so we have enough food. And, remember, we are all family here at Covenant, and all are welcome, so bring friends.

#### **A Joyful Noise - Children's Choir**

It's time again for a children's choir. We've had some wonderful music in *Treasure Finders* and are continuing to develop our children's "joyful noise" into regular practicing and into our corporate worship on Sunday mornings.

"A Joyful Noise" will practice during Christian Education Hour at 9:45 am, as part of *Treasure Finders*, and during our 11am worship time, as part of *Wiggle Worship*. Contact Rob Rucker, Amy Rucker, Kim Halsey, Shane Spicer or Katie Kinnison.

**Rev. Fran Park - former Covenant pastor, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and mentor - died Mon., Nov. 14, 2011.** Services were held at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale, AZ. Read a message from Pinnacle Sr. Pastor, Dr. Wesley Avram at <http://www.pinnaclepres.com/2011/franpark/index.html>. Please keep his wife Sue and daughters Cathy and Ann, son Andy, their spouses David Koeneman and Don Wade, and grandchildren Kadie, Megan, Alison, Tom, and Matthew in your prayers. Visit Fran's website for tributes and more details: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/franpark>. We will pass on more information as needed.



**Karen's Corner** - Dear Covenant Friends,

I know it seems like this is the “end of the year” Communicator, but it’s really the beginning. Advent is the start of the church calendar, and January 1 begins our monthly calendar. So, why not begin something this season?

**Prayer** – We’ll have a prayer station installation in the narthex throughout advent. Come a little early and begin your worship experience with a time of interactive personal prayer or stay late! You can also visit the prayer station installation anytime during the week.

**Scripture Reading** – Grab an advent devotional and spend some time every day reading God’s word, learning from one of your Covenant friends, and praying a short prayer.

**Study** – Come to one of our education hour offerings. We’ve got Bible Study, a host of interesting Forum topics, a great youth class about our Old Testament ancestors, and even an adult faith formation class using the confirmation curriculum. It’s interesting and fun, I promise.

**Mission** – Consider adopting a family through the deacons, helping us with the Peace School on Martin Luther King Day, or one of our other “Salt and Light” opportunities. Join us in Honduras or Pittsburgh this summer. We’ve got space and need for youth and adults on both trips.

I know that you are all busy. Life is crazy and hectic, but spending time growing your faith will be worth every minute. It will open up space in your mind, heart, and soul for the peace that surpasses all understanding, and we all have time for that! *Karen Ware Jackson karenjackson@covenantpcusa.org*

**Christmas Lock-In!**

**Fri., Dec. 16, 6pm – Sat., Dec. 17, 9am**

Join us for a night of fun and faith. We’ll have all the traditional lock-in activities (running around in the dark and eating tons of food) plus a super-fun surprise outing. We’ll even have a little worship.

**Youth Dinner and Bible Study Sundays, 6-7:30pm**



This is open to all middle and high school students, but it is a low key event geared towards an older crowd. This weekly activity is expected of all students who feel called to serve at Montana de Luz this summer.

**Youth Confirmation 9:45-10:45am, Lower Level**

Dec. 18– *Am I really supposed to believe Mary was a virgin?*

Jan. 15– *Why does it say we believe in “the holy catholic church” if we’re not catholic?*

Jan. 29– *Why should I follow Jesus; can’t I just say I believe in him?*

Feb 10-12– *Presbytery Confirmation Retreat @ Camp Akita*

Feb. 26– *Can I be a Christian without going to church?*

**Presbytery Youth Retreat @ Camp Akita - Feb 10-12**

We’ll be headed to the Hocking Hills to meet up with friends from all over the Presbytery for great keynotes, fun small groups, and lots of free time. All youth 5th grade and up are invited. This retreat is part of confirmation class. Karen will be teaching the confirmation lessons at the retreat, so it will be different from last year.

**Middle School Fellowship Sundays, 6-7:30pm**

All students grades 5 and up, join us for dinner, games, and a short time of prayer and study.

**Adult Confirmation 9:45-10:45am, Lower Level**

Are you comfortable articulating your Christian faith? Do you have questions about God/Christ/The Holy Spirit? Of course you do. Let's talk about them together. Let's put words to our questions and our faith so that we can talk to our children.

Dec. 11- *Am I really supposed to believe Mary was a virgin?*

Jan 22 – *Why should I follow Jesus; can’t I just say I believe in him?*

Feb 5 – *How can God be three-in-one?*

Feb 19 – *Can I be a Christian without going to church?*

## Youth continued

### The Pittsburgh Project – July 9-13, 2012



*Ages:* entering 6th grade - graduates

*Cost:* Total cost is \$300. Church hopes to pay \$150 per student making your cost \$150.

*Expectations:* Help with Covenant Cafe and sub sales. We

would also love to see you at Wednesday night youth group, Sunday school, etc. **\$50 Deposit Due January 22.** *We need adult sponsors. Consider if you might be called to serve.*

### Covenant “Tailgate” Cafe/Silent Auction March 10

Mark your calendars now, folks. Wear the garb of your favorite team and join us for a night of great food and great silent auction items, all for a great cause. You can buy tickets from the youth starting in February, and we’ll accept your donations to the silent auction starting in January.

### Summer Mission 2012

#### Montana de Luz, Honduras – June 20-17, 2012



*Ages:* entering 9th grade - graduates

*Cost:* Total cost is \$1,800. Church hopes to pay \$1,000 per student making your cost \$800. (Talk to me early for help with raising this \$800.)

*Expectations:* You will be expected to attend the Sunday night dinners, 6-7:30pm, and Bible Study starting in the fall and continuing through the trip. You will also be expected to participate in church mission fundraisers like the Covenant Cafe and sub sales. **\$200 Deposit due January 22.**

### Youth Sunday School 9:45-10:45am, Lower Level

We are going to have a great Sunday school class for youth using the same curriculum series we are using for confirmation. The “non-confirmation” lessons will be focused on Old Testament Bible Stories.

## Events and Announcements continued on page 8

### Deacons’ Blood Drive

Thank you all for your donations. Last time 29 people gave blood and 21 units were donated to help 63 ill people. Sign up sheets will be available between church services several weeks prior to the Blood Drive. Let’s try to challenge ourselves and surpass our in March. Contact Jay McLean, 209-7314, [jmclean001@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jmclean001@columbus.rr.com), or email Becky Miller, [ramdvm4511@yahoo.com](mailto:ramdvm4511@yahoo.com).

**Mon., March 26, 1-6pm, Fellowship Hall**



**Open Wide the Door to the Future Update** – This Capital Campaign will help our building better accommodate the present and prepare for the future God is calling us to. Many thanks to those of you who have already turned in your pledge cards. If you haven’t, it’s not too late. Pledge cards are located at the Welcome Table in the hallway and in the pews, or call our Financial Administrator Ingrid Brooker, 451-6677, if you want one mailed to you. Questions? Contact Jim Hamilton or Dana Rudmose, co-chairs of the Steering Committee. Thank you for your support!

## Christmas Season Events



### Holiday Services

- Christmas Eve Children/Family Service - 5pm
  - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 8pm
  - Christmas Sunday One Service - 10am
  - New Years Eve *Come-and-Go* Communion Service - 5-7pm
  - New Years Day Sunday Service - 10am
- (Feel free to come as you are.)

### Christmas Joy Offering

With Christmas approaching so rapidly, it's time to remind ourselves that there will soon be inserts in your bulletins about the Christmas Joy Offering. Each is about a different cause or recipient. The titles are *A Gift That Keeps on Giving*, *Special Gifts for Special Needs*, *Not to be Served, but to Serve*, *Good News About Great Joy*, and *More than Giving - Giving Back*. Each one tells a clear and interesting story about the ways our contributions will help worthy people and programs. Remember to give help and hope to the many needy.

### Adopt-A-Family – Christmas-time Ministry

The Deacons will again offer Covenant members the opportunity to broaden their joy at the holiday season by sharing with less fortunate families. Form groups, adopt a family and provide wrapped, new toys and clothing for the children and a gift for the adults. Margaret A. Watson, a social worker that has assisted us for many years with this program, and the Salvation Army will provide contact information about needy families and their Christmas gift-wishes. The Salvation Army requests that the gifts given to their families be left unwrapped. Let us know of your interest as soon as

possible so we know how many less fortunate families we can serve. Covenant has helped around 20 families in the past; can we match that or help even more? The Deacons will contribute a gift card to Krogers for the family's use.

If you would like to make a financial contribution, write checks to *Covenant*, clearly marking it for Adopt-A-Family. For more information, to sign up for a family, or to help by shopping, wrapping, or delivering gifts, contact Margaret Molli-Clark, 538-8505, Joyce DeLaney, 486-9736, or Jay McLean, home 457-9177, cell 209-7314.

### PC(USA) Campaign for Fair Food

The Presbyterian Church USA is a long-time member of the Campaign for Fair Food. The Campaign calls upon major food buyers to end poverty and modern slavery in the Florida fields by working in partnership with the Coalition of Immokalee (Fl) Workers (CIW), an award-winning, human rights farmworker organization. The Campaign is supported by religious, human rights, student and sustainable food organizations across the nation. The CIW seeks modern working conditions and fair treatment for farmworkers.

Immokalee is Florida's largest farmworker community, working for large agricultural corporations in the tomato and citrus harvests. Workers must pick more than 2.25 tons of tomatoes to earn minimum wage in a typical 10-hour work day. Most farmworkers today earn less than \$12,000 a year. They do not have the right to overtime pay, nor to organize and collectively bargain with their employers. In extreme cases, workers are held against their will and forced to labor in modern day slavery.

Retail food companies contribute to creating these conditions of poverty, abuse and slavery through their high-volume, low-cost purchasing practices. The CIW has forged fair food agreements with nine major food retailers and 90 percent of the Florida food industry, which has agreed to pay farmworkers at least a penny per pound increase and ensure farmworker participation in creating and monitoring of Codes of Conduct with a zero tolerance policy for modern day slavery. Ohio Fair Food has brought the campaign to Kroger and Trader Joe's, asking them to join the growing movement for fair food by working with the CIW to ensure human rights and fair wages for farmworkers who harvest the tomatoes sold in their stores.

You can join this effort by signing postcards to CEOs of Kroger and Trader Joe's, available at CPW circles. To sign a petition for abuse-free food at Trader Joe's, go to the website [www.change.org](http://www.change.org).

## Worship Services Sundays 8:30am & 11:00am

**Gathering, Every Wednesday, 6pm, Fellowship Hall.  
Casual, interactive, family-friendly message and music.**

Dec. 4	“A Little Perspective” Isaiah 40:1-11; Peter 3:8-15a	Tracy preaching
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>Gathering - “Hope”</b>	<b>Prayer Service</b>
Dec. 11	“The Broken Places” Isaiah. 61:1-4,8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Tracy preaching
<b>Dec. 14</b>	<b>Gathering - “Joy”</b>	<b>Prayer Service</b>
Dec. 18	“God’s House” 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Psalm 89:1-4,19-26	Tracy preaching
<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Gathering - “Peace”</b>	<b>Prayer Service</b>
Dec. 25	“Christmas Stories” ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10am. Come as You Are!	Various Speakers
<b>Dec. 28</b>	<b>Gathering - “Gathering Unplugged”</b>	<b>Taize Prayer Service</b>
<b>Dec. 31</b>	<b>SPECIAL “OPEN HOUSE” COMMUNION SERVICE ON NEW YEAR’S EVE – 5-7 pm</b>	
Jan. 1	New Year’s Day. Musical Sermon: “One Voice” ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10am.	
<b>Jan. 4</b>	<b>Gathering - “Epiphany”</b>	<b>Jim preaching</b>
Jan. 8	“Water and the Spirit” Genesis 1:1-5, Mark 1:4-11	Karen preaching
<b>Jan. 12</b>	<b>Gathering - “Set the Captives Free”</b>	<b>Karen preaching</b>
Jan. 15	“Whose Body is it Anyway?” Psalm 139:1-6,13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Tracy preaching
<b>Jan. 18</b>	<b>Gathering - “The Lord’s Prayer: Our Father”</b>	<b>Katie preaching</b>
Jan. 22	“Or Not” Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Tracy preaching
<b>Jan. 25</b>	<b>Gathering - “The Lord’s Prayer: Thy Kingdom Come”</b>	<b>Jim preaching</b>
Jan. 29	“The Know-it-All” Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Tracy Preaching
<b>Feb. 1</b>	<b>Gathering - “The Lord’s Prayer: Daily Bread”</b>	<b>Karen preaching</b>
Feb. 5	“Red Tail Hawk and Other Raptors” Isaiah 40:21-31	Jim preaching
<b>Feb. 8</b>	<b>Gathering - “The Lord’s Prayer: Forgive Us”</b>	<b>Katie preaching</b>
Feb. 12	“Healing Stories” 2 Kings 5:1-14; Mark 1:40-45	Tracy preaching
<b>Feb. 15</b>	<b>Gathering - “The Lord’s Prayer: Lead Us”</b>	<b>Jim preaching</b>
<b>Feb. 22</b>	<b>Gathering - “SPECIAL ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE”</b>	<b>Karen preaching</b>
Feb. 26	First Sunday of Lent “The Beloved in the Wilderness” Psalm 25:1-10; Mark 1:9-15	Tracy preaching
<b>Feb. 29</b>	<b>Gathering - “Conversations at Night: Nicodemus”</b>	<b>Katie preaching</b>

The church office will be closed for the Christmas holidays Mon., Dec. 26–Fri., Dec. 30

### Peacemaking Offering

This year the Covenant portion of the Peacemaking Offering has been designated to go to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio. On Sep 7. 25, Ida Williams, representing that organization, was our guest speaker in the Forum. She talked about how Big Brothers Big Sisters pairs adult mentors with children and teens who need positive role models in their lives. She told stories of how the program has changed the lives of at-risk children, and the bonds that develop between these adult volunteers and the young people they are paired with. Those listening in the Forum that morning expressed knowing people or having been involved themselves in this program and the positive outcomes they witnessed. Because of federal spending cuts, programs like Big Brothers Big Sisters rely heavily on outside donations to continue their work.

Mrs. Williams stressed the need for volunteers to become friends to these children who need someone to care. She also told how a little money goes a long way. For instance, to send a child to summer camp for a week costs about \$100. Some of these children have never had the opportunity to leave the city, so to experience a week in the Hocking Hills is like a fantasy come true. These young people are given the opportunity to grow into responsible adults.

This year the Peacemaking Offering was received Oct. 2, but the church is still accepting donations until the end of December. The members of the Peacemaking Committee thank you for your support in helping

to make our world a better place to live.



## Big Brothers Big Sisters

### The Primetimers Group Has Good Things Planned

- **Wed., Dec. 28, 6pm, Rittenhouse Square** - Enjoy fellowship by the fireplace at the annual Christmas party. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and small gifts exchanged. RSVP Phil Hall 457-0599
- **Fri., Jan., 20, 12pm, Lounge** - Come to the potluck. Bring your own table service and a dish to share. Dick Campbell will be showing the film "Pride of the Buckeyes" about the process for becoming a member of the OSU marching band. Contact Ruth Adams with questions at 336-0194.
- **Fri., Feb. 17, 12pm, Lounge** - Another great potluck. The program will be on the Honor Flights to D.C. for Veterans. Hosts will be Don Day and Bill Gibson. Contact Bill, 336-3592, with questions.

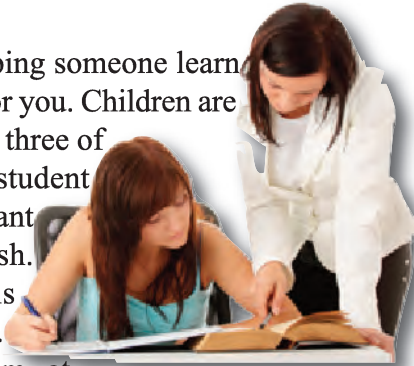
### The Jean A. Mortland Memorial Scholarship

The Jean A. Mortland Scholarship was established in 2007 in memory of Jean A. Mortland because of her appreciation for excellent music and advocacy for higher education. Jean was a member of Covenant for over 40 years and taught at Capital University Law School. Her faith was service oriented and socially active, and her leadership at Covenant was a gift of intellect, passion, and strength. She left a substantial bequest to us which was supplemented by donations made in her memory. Her family wanted the fund to reflect her love of music, higher education and the Christian faith. The recipient is selected by the Worship and Arts Commission. Applicants should be pursuing a college or graduate degree in music or theology, be a member of Covenant or associated closely in some manner, and demonstrate a commitment to excellence in their vocation. Also considered are overall GPA, financial need, and written recommendations. The candidate must be enrolled in the institution of higher learning to which the gift will be directed. Deadline is March 1. For information and an application form, contact Ingrid Brooker, 451-6677.

## Events and Announcements continued

### Tutors Needed

If you haven't tried helping someone learn maybe this is the time for you. Children are waiting for a tutor at all three of the churches. Another student being tutored at Covenant needs help with Spanish. Covenant tutoring is Wednesday 4-5:30pm. On Tuesdays 5-6:30pm at Maynard Ave. Church two tutors are needed for girls. Alos, two tutors are needed for two new students at Indianola Church on Thursdays 5-6:30pm. Contact Carol Petro 485-0994, [jpetrobball@aol.com](mailto:jpetrobball@aol.com).



**Email Addresses Wanted** - There are members who haven't provided email addresses to the church. To help reduce the cost of postage and to give you more timely information, send your email address to Ingrid Brooker, [ingridbrooker@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:ingridbrooker@covenantpcusa.org).

### Sunday Night Bible Study 6:30pm, Lounge, 120

We meet every Sunday night and are currently studying Mark. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Lisa Wallace or Colleen Davis 766-4871.

**Did You Know...**you can send your contributions to the church through your online banking, just as you do your household bills? It's safe and easy, plus it eliminates the check writing process because your bank sends a check to the church on your behalf. Make sure to add your envelope number as your account number when you're setting up your account. Everyone has an envelope number as that is how your information is recorded at the church. If you need help in setting this up through your bank or don't know your envelope number, call Ingrid Brooker, Financial Administrator, 451-6677.

**Covenant Men's Breakfast 2nd Sat. each month**  
Join Covenant men every second Sat. for breakfast at First Watch at Kingsdale. Call Allan Kennedy, 451-9318.

### Year End Contributions Reminder

Make sure your year end contributions are received in the church office no later than Dec. 31, 2011. Any contributions received after Dec. 31 will be credited for the year 2012. If you have any questions about your contributions, call Ingrid Brooker in the finance office.

### PiYo Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm, Lounge

PiYo is a simple blend of Pilates and Yoga movements. The exercises will especially improve flexibility, balance, and core strength. All participants are encouraged to work at their own pace and exercise modifications are shown for those with certain restrictions. The movements are slow and flow from sitting to standing positions.



Quiet music and relaxing stretches help to calm the body and the spirit. Participants should dress comfortably and bring a mat. Donations will be applied toward a mission selected by the group.

## Clerk of Session Report - Tom Billman, Clerk of Session

Your Clerk of Session would like to share some statistical data from the third quarter of 2011. During the third quarter, Covenant's current active membership increased to 615. Covenant Presbyterian Church (CPC) had three weddings during the third quarter; Angela Allerding and Brian Woessner; Esther Chung and Andrew Hall; and Mary Hoyt and Richard Pete Hemmer. Average worship attendance during the second quarter of 2011 was 70 at our 8:30am worship, and 140 at 11am worship. CPC's Wednesday worship service "The Gathering" is averaging 23 people per week. Covenant had one baptism during the 3rd quarter, which was the baptism of Anari Mei Anderson, granddaughter of Chuck and Doris Anderson.

## Events and Announcements continued

### Spiritual Cinema 3rd Mon., 6:30 pm, Lounge

Watch a film and share your reactions:

Dec. 19 - *Of Gods and Men*: Under threat by fundamentalist terrorists, a group of Trappist monks stationed in an impoverished Algerian community must decide whether to leave or stay.

Jan. 16 - *Children of Heaven*: Two children concoct an elaborate scheme to cover up the loss of a pair of shoes in this family comedy-drama from Iran.



Feb. 20 - *Lars and the Real Girl*: In this comedy Lars Lindstrom is an awkwardly shy young man in a small northern town who finally brings home the girl of his dreams. The only problem is that she is not real.

We play the subtitles for all movies, so no dialogue is missed. Join us for laughter, tears and lively discussion. Contact Beth Askue, 459-1445 or Susan Imel, 262-7444.

### Seeds of Hope (SOH) has another outstanding year

The Garden has been put to bed for the winter. Winter rye cover crop has covered the garden beds with a soft green blanket and a few hardy cold-weather crops are still providing food for those in need - turnips, kohlrabi, beets, pak choi.

During the 2011 growing season, the SOH volunteers planted, nursed, and harvested delicious crops of tomatoes, green beans, beets, cabbage, summer squash, broccoli, carrots, green peppers, white and sweet potatoes, herbs, strawberries, sweet peas, Swiss chard, and onions.

In total, more than 960 pounds of crops were delivered to four food pantries, including Covenant's SOS Food Pantry.

In addition, Covenant volunteers installed the beautiful picket fence encircling the garden as a safety measure. Special thanks are due to John Harder, Dave Seifert, Bob Tullett, and all those who pounded, measured, leveled, screwed, drilled, and sawed. The cost of the fence was covered by grants received from the Upper Arlington Rotary Club and the Scotts-Miracle Gro company.

Plans are already being made for 2012. The fence will be stained, flower gardens planted, new fencing for the compost bins constructed, and, of course, many delicious vegetables grown for those in need.

This mission outreach has, and, we hope, will continue to be a success—growing not only crops, but community. Covenant members are urged to consider volunteering at the garden in 2012. Keep your eyes open for a Volunteer Signup next year, or call Bob Tannehill, Garden Manager, 488-7587, or Karen Hjelm, Mission & Social Concerns Commission, 326-1433.

### For Year-End Gifts to Covenant

If you are 70-1/2 years or older, have you thought about taking advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover provision and making a pledge from your IRA? This provision allows you to make an outright gift of up to \$100,000 per year directly from your IRA to a qualified charity (Covenant) without paying tax on the distribution. This is an excellent way to use your IRA dollars. One hundred percent of your gift goes to Covenant, and you pay zero percent tax on your distribution from your IRA. This provision ends on December 31, 2011, so please consider this option as you decide on the source of your gifts to Covenant, should they be for the Capital Campaign, The Permanent Funds Ministry (endowment), or to fulfill your annual pledge to the Operating Fund.

### 2012 Per Capita

Each member of Covenant is also a member of the larger church, the Presbyterian Church USA. As such, it is part of our responsibility to support the work of the administrative bodies of the national church – the General Assembly, the Synod, and the Presbytery. We do this by making a per capita payment each January. This year, the per capita is \$32.88 per member, for a total payment due of \$20,056.80. This figure is based upon our church membership roll as of Dec. 31, 2010.

We invite you to pay your share of the per capita so that this money does not need to come from this year's budget. Your contribution will free up funds for other vital church programs that meet the spiritual needs of our congregation. - *Your Stewardship & Budget Commission*

## Events and Announcements continued

**Please remember our SOS Food Pantry** on your next trip to the grocery store. The following items are always needed: canned fruit, cereal, pork & beans, canned green beans, canned baked beans, jam, peanut butter, tuna, etc., and soap. (Please, no expired food.) See Gerlinde Lott for more info. Thanks for all your contributions.

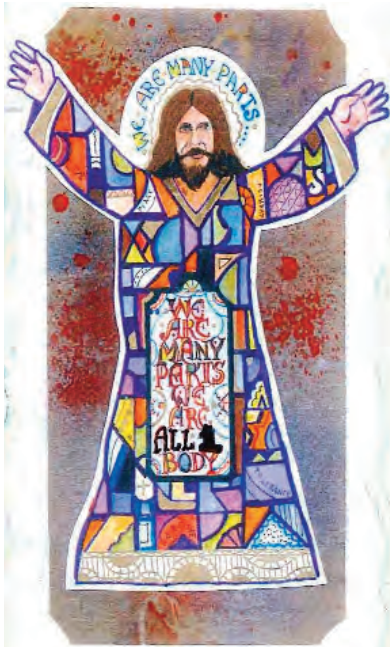


**Know anyone who might like to receive Covenant's weekly Thurs. e-newsletter** of events, adventures and opportunities...or the Tues. e-newsletter for *Gathering*, youth and young adults? Send their email address to [joanpogalies@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:joanpogalies@covenantpcusa.org).

**Mission Sewing** meets Tuesdays, 1-3pm in Room 121. Call Diana Sanders, 847-4431.

## Covenant Presbyterian Women

### Christmas Coffee



**Wed., Dec. 7, 9:30am**  
Enjoy coffeecake, nut breads, muffins, fruit, coffee and tea. Hostesses will be Anna Jo Beeson and Hazel Ginther.

Gail Griffin has arranged for Ray Kline, an artist, to share some of his art and present a program that describes how jazz connects to his art. His works will be on display in the Lounge during December. He is a graduate of Columbus College of Art and Design where he has been on the faculty for 25 years. He states that his work is not

traditional but rather he implements symbols of a particular subject and relies on the viewer to "react." His work in the area of religion allows him to worship God. There is no cost to attend the coffee and no reservations are required.

CPW will accept cash gifts to be given to Franklin County Children's Services. Please bring educational toys for ages 1-3 and 1-12, which will be given to the Open Shelter for its Ho-Ho Christmas Party. Contact Susan Imel, 262-7444, [susanimel1@gmail.com](mailto:susanimel1@gmail.com).

### All Covenant Women are Invited to be part of Covenant Presbyterian Women's Circles

These circles work on special mission projects:

- Mission Sewing - every Tues., 1pm, Rm 121
- Prayer Shawl Circle - 2nd & 4th Fri., 9:30am, Lounge – Knitting prayer shawls. Yarn and instructions furnished.

These have a Bible study as part of their fellowship:

- Elizabeth Circle - 1st Wed., 7pm, Rm. 120
- Eunice-Lydia Circle - 1st Wed., 9:15am, Lounge
- Miriam Circle - 1st Thurs., 9:30am, Lounge
- Naomi Circle - 1st Wed., 7:30pm, in a member's home, Contact Judy Oeder, 459-2231

Visit any circle that fits your schedule. This is an open invitation to all Covenant women. Questions? Jane Morton, 459-3922

### Spaghetti Dinner/Covenant's Got Talent Night

**Sat., Feb. 11, 2012, 5:30pm**

We'll start the evening by enjoying a wonderful spaghetti dinner hosted by Louise Davidson and CPW. Then, hold onto your boots because then will come "Covenant's Got Talent: YOU" directed by Rob Rucker. If you are interested in being in this show, contact Rob Rucker, Ginnie Swartz or Betsy Sebastian. Tickets go on sale late January.





## COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2070 Ridgecliff Road, Columbus, OHIO 43221

Phone (614)451-6677 Fax (614)451-1326

[www.covenantpcusa.org](http://www.covenantpcusa.org)

Please call the church office, 614-451-6677,  
if your address changes.



### Covenant Contacts

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View and print issues from our web site. Click on "Publications and Forms" which will take you to another page where you can click and view any issue. Please email [ingridbrooker@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:ingridbrooker@covenantpcusa.org) or call the church office if you need *Your Communicator* mailed to your house.

### March, April, May 2012 Issue of Your *Communicator*

Your information should be emailed by Mon., Feb. 13, to JP: [joanpogalies@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:joanpogalies@covenantpcusa.org). Include contact information and what, when, who, where, how and why. The printed/mailed copies will be assembled on Thursday, Feb., 23 at 9 am in Fellowship Hall and we would love your help. Call 451-6677 to volunteer.

**Church Office: 614-451-6677 Fax: 614-451-1326 Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am-4:00 pm**