



Your *Communicator*

Covenant Presbyterian Church

June/July 2009

I can smell the rain from my desk. The window is open, the world just outside of it has gone a brilliant palette of green, and the moisture is hanging heavy in the air. For the moment, I have turned away from the sheaves of scrawled notes, the schedules, the post-its, the forwards, the messages, and the silent clamor of urgency that surround me.

This is really the first time I have had a chance to sit at my desk all week. There have been funerals, hospital visits, meetings (always the meetings), deadlines, conference calls, worship services, classes, discussion groups, luncheons, and more meetings. The thought comes to mind: "I have been so busy that I haven't been able to get any work done." Then I have to smile. What exactly is my work? Of course, it IS being there for funerals, hospital visits, meetings, and so on. And it is also doing the quiet desk work behind all of those things. And yet, barely a few moments into the sorting and prioritizing, the clicking of "reply" or checking dates, I realize that I can smell the rain from my desk, and it will not be ignored. I realize that I have another duty.

My responsibility as a human being at this moment is also that of smelling the rain, drinking in the brilliant

palette of green with thirsty eyes, feeling the moisture hanging heavy in the air. Our work--- the vocation or calling of us all--- is to be certain to take time to pause and be still and simply be. Our work, no matter what it entails, must be done with a spirit that spends time basking in the refreshing presence of God.

That is how the whole why of the whole thing remains before us. Why do we do what we do? What is our purpose? As the Shorter Catechism asks: "What is the chief end of [humankind]?" Answer: "To glorify God and enjoy God forever."

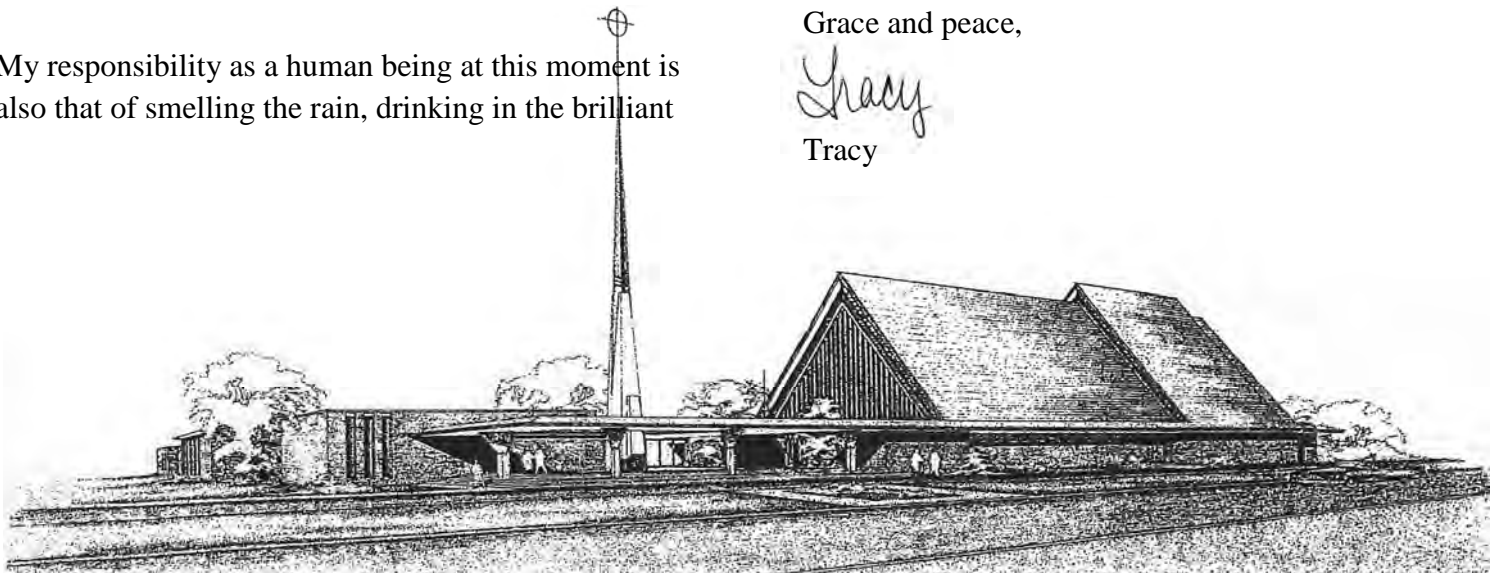
Remember to take time to:

Enjoy the joy,
Feel strong the strength,
Live the love beyond height or length,
Know the power of peace,
Embrace the grace,
Let the light of heaven shine upon your face.

In fact, it is our duty to smell the rain.

Grace and peace,

Tracy
Tracy



Sunday Morning Education Hour 9:45 am

FORUMS: Living the Questions:

Theology doesn't really do us any good if it happens only in a classroom or in our heads. What we believe about God must translate into how we live if we are to live lives of grace and abundance that bring the healing love of God into the world. This DVD series offers a chance to share our understandings about God while we consider how best to live. Each week, we will watch a 20-minute presentation by a variety of theologians, and then we will talk. And we will pray that our talk becomes loving and powerful action. Our confirmation students will be using some of this series as well. Please note: CDs of our Forums are available for you to check out in our library. Contact Katie if you can't find what you want there.

- June 7 "Living the Questions: An Invitation to the Journey"
- June 14 "Living the Questions 2: Taking the Bible Seriously"
- June 21 "Darfur" Karen Ware Jackson and the Darfur Study Group
- June 28 "Living the Questions 3: Thinking Theologically"
- July 5 "Living the Questions 4: Stories of Creation"
- July 12 "Living the Questions 5: Lives of Jesus"
- July 19 "Living the Questions 6: A Passion for Christ: Paul"
- July 26 "Living the Questions 7: Out Into the World"
- August 2 "Living the Questions 8: Restoring Relationships"
- August 9 "Mission Trip Reports"

Other Weekly Sunday Morning Options:

The Wired Word will continue to meet in room 120 to discuss how we understand and respond to world events in light of our call to follow Jesus.

The Parents' Lounge meets in room 102, where parents gather to share information, perspective, laughter and support.

CHILDREN: 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!

YOUTH: TV Gospel, Gospel According to Joan of Arcadia, Karen's Office

Spiritual Cinema Mon., June 15, 6:30 pm, Lounge

The featured film is *Edward Scissorhands* with discussion led by Madeleine Connolly. For information, contact Beth Askue, askue.1@osu.edu; 4591445, or Susan Imel, susanimel@gmail.com; 262-7444. Watch the church bulletin and the web site for information about the July 20 movie.

Discernment Group: Listening 101

Starts Wed., June 10, 6:30-8 pm

Discernment is one of those really spiritual church words with a haze around it. Most of us don't know exactly what it means or how to do it. Join us as we try to understand and practice listening to God together. Check our website, the flyer available, or call Katie for more information.

"Across the Threshold, Into the Questions: Discovering Jesus, Finding Self"

Mondays or Tuesdays, 7:30-9 pm

This is a book by Caren Goldman and Ted Voorhees, a woman who is a Jewish author and award-winning journalist and a man who is an Episcopal priest. They are husband and wife, and together they seek to look at the life and person of Jesus with fresh eyes, and they believe that, through this careful looking, they will be changed.

Join us as we share in their journey and study the scriptures to find new life and new ways of being. You may come to as many of the meetings as you are able. Meetings are scheduled on alternating Mondays and Tuesdays to accommodate as many schedules as possible. The Adult Learning display outside the narthex doors holds a flyer with more detail and a meeting schedule. Copies of the book are available for 15 dollars. Contact Katie with questions.

Sunday Evening Services will not be held June, July or August, but will resume in September.

JUNE 7 COMMUNION – FIRST OUTDOOR 8:30 am SERVICE

Sermon	"Spirit-Bold"	Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17	Tracy Keenan Preaching
Choral	"The Call"	K. Lee Scott	Early Birds
	"To Share Our Faith"	Joseph M. Martin	Chancel Choir
Instrumental	8:30 "Blessed Assurance"	Michael Hassell	
	Medley: "It Is Well with My Soul/He Leadeth Me"	Michael Hassell	
	"This Little Light of Mine"	Michael Hassell	Weldon Adams, Piano
	11:00 "For as the Rain Comes Down"	Lee J. Afdahl	
	"Kyrie"	Cathy Moklebust	Campanile Bell Choir
	"Carillon"	Jules Massenet	Weldon Adams, Organ

JUNE 14 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon	"Shelter From the Storm"	Ezekiel 17:22-24; Mark 4:26-34	Tracy Keenan Preaching
Choral	"From the Apple in the Garden"	Roy Hopp	Early Birds
	"My God Is an Awesome God"	Keith Hampton	Chancel Choir
Instrumental			Rodolfo Vazquez, Flute

JUNE 21 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon	"Pipe Down Pipsqueak"	2 Cor. 11 & 12; Mark 4:35-41; Job 38:1-41	Tracy Keenan Preaching
Choral	"Like as a Father"	Luigi Cherubini	Early Birds
	"We Will Rejoice"	William Croft	Chancel Choir
Instrumental	"Voluntary in F Major"	John Stanley	
	"Voluntary in A Minor"	John Stanley	Weldon Adams, Organ

JUNE 28 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Summer Mission Trips Commissioning

Sermon	"Go"	Duet. 6: 4-8; Matthew 28: 16-20	Karen Ware Jackson Preaching
Choral	"Out of the Depths"	G. F. Handel	Early Birds, Chancel Choir and String Ensemble
	"Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord (<i>Solomon</i>)"	G. F. Handel	
Instrumental	"Concerto in F Major for Organ and Strings"	G. F. Handel	Weldon Adams and String Ensemble

JULY 5 COMMUNION / 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon	"Thorny Topics: When Folks Ignore Wisdom"	Ezekiel 2:1-7; Psalm 12; 2 Cor. 12:2-10	TK preaching
Vocal			Scott Henning, Soloist
Instrumental			Merrymakers Recorder Consort

JULY 12 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon	"Everybody Loves a Parade!"	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	Karen Ware Jackson Preaching
Vocal			Amy Kendall, Soloist
Instrumental			John McCarty, Piano

JULY 19 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon	"Groucho Marxism"	Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-22	Tracy Keenan Preaching
Vocal			SuNaLi Trio
Instrumental			Weldon Adams, Keyboards

JULY 26 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon	"Growing Up"	Psalm 78:1-22, 38-40; Ephesians 4:1-16	Tracy Keenan Preaching
Vocal			Scott Henning, Soloist
Instrumental			Rodolfo Vazquez, Flute; Nancy Davidson, Keyboards

Pledge Cards

If you have not turned in your pledge card for the 2009-2010 year, please do so as soon as you can. Pledge cards are available on the Welcome Table in the church hallway or by contacting the Finance Office. THANK YOU to those of you who have already responded!

Connecting With God Men's Breakfast

4th Saturdays, June, July, and August, 8 am, Lounge

We're going "Continental." We will share a continental breakfast of fruit, rolls, and beverages as our breakfast fare. This summer our theme will be "Soul Matters For Men." Among the topics will be: "The Power Of Attitude – The quality of our life is more dependent on our perspective than our circumstances;" "Dealing With Setbacks and Detours – When facing disappointments and adversity, how we handle them is more important than the disappointments themselves;" "Facing An Uncertain Future – Though we don't know what tomorrow holds, we can trust God to see us through;" "Growing Stronger Through Adversity – When faced with setbacks and obstacles, God gives us the grace to accomplish spectacular things;" "The Art Of Getting Along – It is fine to speak your mind and be true to your heart, but looking for quarrels is destructive to all." For information or to sign-up for any breakfast, contact Jim, jimmebler@covenantpcusa.org, 451-6677.

Last PiYo Class, Mon., June 8, 1:30 pm, Lounge. Will begin again in the fall.

Habitat for Humanity , Saturdays, 8:15 am-3:30 pm. Call Dave Fecht 451-9770.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

The total received this year was \$3,450.55, compared with \$3,093. in 2008. Our thanks for this improvement! Our records go back to 1981 when \$3,667.19 was given. In 2000-\$6,340.25; 2001-\$6,064.60; 2002-\$4,157; 2003 - \$6,196.51; 2004-\$4,885.27; 2005-\$4,120.49; 2006-\$4,511 and 2007-\$4,026.45. There is no easy way to know what causes these variations. The economy may be a factor, along with attendance at worship. A Covenant in Mission and bulletin inserts publicize the offering, and envelopes are sent with the newsletter. All special offerings are forwarded to the Presbytery of Scioto Valley and on to the PC(USA). The chair of each church's Mission Interpretation, or some designated person, completes and returns a form sent by Alan Krome, associate for special offerings, General Assembly Council. As the current Mission Yearbook said, this offering is a tangible way of sharing the love of God with one another in ways that will protect and enrich the lives of our brothers and sisters. It ends saying, "We affirm our true treasure lies in returning to God the control over our own well-being." Our thanks to all who contributed and prayers that many people will benefit from this assistance.

Deacon News

Deacons are collecting toiletries: 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!

Lemonade Sundays June 28, July 26 and August 23
We had a wonderful Greet Your Deacon Sunday in April. Many members stopped by to chat. Meet them again on Lemonade Sundays.

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

Sunday Night Bible Study 6:30 pm, Room 120

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.

Food & Faith Field Trips Sat., June 13

Join us for a field trip to the North Market for farm fresh produce and other delicious items. If you'd like to carpool, we'll leave the church together at 9 am. Also, mark these dates on your calendars: 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.

Theology on Tap

Tues., June 9, 6 pm, The Old Bag of Nails

Have some dinner if you'd like, maybe a drink of some kind, too, and you'll be sure to have part in a stimulating conversation. Join staff members and whoever else shows up to discuss "Forgiveness: Is Repentance Necessary." You will not be bored. Mark your calendar now for the second discussion in our series on July 14.

Summer Reading

We have some amazing book discussions planned, and our church library has been overhauled to prominently display some wonderful options for reading and for viewing. Make sure you get a copy of "Summer Reading Covenant Style," a brochure available in the Adult Learning Display across from the narthex. Or check out the options online at www.covenantpcusa.org. Read stories by Flannery O'Connor, *Sex God* by Rob Bell, *The Shack* by William Paul Young, and *They Like Jesus But Not the Church* by Dan Kimball. Our first discussion will be of a book by a local pastor, Susan K. Williams Smith, entitled *Crazy Faith: Extraordinary Lives*. Join us after church on Sun., June 28 for a light lunch and a lively discussion about the nature of faith, how we get it and how we live it. Copies of the book are available for \$11. Call or e-mail Katie to reserve your lunch spot by June.

Katie's Corner

So now we are in the season of Pentecost. What does that mean?

I love that day of Pentecost, that red day of tongues of fire and of a swirling wind that changes everything. I love to be reminded that what Jesus promised did indeed come to us -- and comes to us still. For we are, as Paul said, dwelling places of the Holy One. The Spirit of the Living God abides in us, making us new. And it gets better still. That Spirit is on the move, urging us to action, calling others to join together to call forth the kingdom of God.

Vacation Bible School: Discovery Canyon

July 27-31, 9 am-noon

Please make sure your calendars have these dates with gold stars and splendor upon them: Vacation Bible School at Covenant. VBS children are from three years old through those entering 5th grade. Our picnic and program will be Thurs., July 30, 6 pm. We will need lots of loving help from grown ups and youth, so please plan on being here. You will not want to miss the fun. Also, please note these dates: Sun., July 12—Teachers' Lunch and Meeting Sat., July 18 & 25 - VBS Work Day: Building Sets and Painting Signs. See the church bulletins for times.

Junior Youth Group Sat., June 13, 6-8 pm

Youths entering Grades 2—5 may join us for a Cookout Covenant style. We'll eat and play and eat some more. We'll meet at our playground to begin the fun. RSVP Katie Kinnison or Shane Spicer by June 9, so we can find out if you are a hot dog or hamburger or vegetarian kind of a kid!

Parents of Little Ones Tues. mornings, 9:30-11 am

"Summer Sanity" begins June 9. Join us Tuesday mornings for a time to hang out with other grown ups and maybe even complete a sentence or two. Our children will be lovingly cared for, while parents gather down the hall with coffee, munchies, and a chance to talk. For info see Karen Ware Jackson or Katie Kinnison.

God is working for justice and for peace. God is working to feed the hungry and to wipe the tears away from the sad. And God is doing this work through us. At our best, we are Holy Spirit fountains, for the love of God – once it gets going – cannot be contained. That love spills over and changes the world.

Pentecost means that God uses us to love abundantly and lavishly. Pentecost means that we are free in Christ to become whole. Pentecost means that the kingdom of God is possible.

So may the Spirit move us where God wills. Get ready.

Summertime. Even if your life no longer follows the academic rhythm, you can feel the difference. The days are longer. The drive home in the dusky afternoon light, windows down, sunglasses on, feels more like a lazy stroll. Everything seems to slow down. There's plenty of time for baseball and swimming pools,	hammocks and porch swings, cookouts and gardening and ice cream. . . I know I sound like a lemonade commercial, but let me have my moment in the sun! Because even when the days last forever and the heat seems interminable, somehow, deep down, we know it won't last. A brisk wind	will scatter leaves on the ground, sweaters will be dug out from underneath the beds, backpacks will scatter the hallways soon enough. For now, let's leave our number two pencils in the drawer; Let the warmth seep into our bones; Spend more summertime. Karen Ware Jackson
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Welcome Home, College Students!

We're excited to have you back for a few months and we've got some activities in the works for some summer fun! Clippers games, Crew games, dinners, camping, service, and more! Contact Karen for more info.

Youth Summer Softball League

starts soon! For schedule and more information contact Morgan Hughes, yeahmorgan@yahoo.com.

Warehouse Sale Sat., June 27, 8am-5pm, 4652 Kenny Rd.

Our Honduras mission trip team will be selling a wide variety of items to raise money for our upcoming trip. Truck bed 'campers,' sinks, glass table tops, filing cabinets, dressers, shelves and even a race car! You never know what will be there so come check it out!

Mission Trips

Connections – Pittsburgh Project, June 29-July 3
Chi Rho – DOOR Chicago, July 24-28
Intergenerational – Montana de Luz, Honduras, July 15-22

Clerk's Corner Review of May 11, 2009 V&S Meeting of Session

The members were asked to name one good thing happening at CPC: New members are attending worship and participating; Attendance is up at 8:30 service; Youth Sunday went well; Blessing of the Bikes brought out young families with children; Display case of Wisdom from Covenant Sages; Music has been particularly outstanding the past two months; Visitors who want to join; Appreciation of the staff and the way they work together; The Variety Show and the chance for fellowship; Lay readers have been very willing participants; The youth string orchestra playing Haydn; Volunteers making the grounds beautiful; New members are involved; Sermons that are centering; People helping each other; and Progress on the church directory and recent staff evaluations have shown how the programs of the church have progressed in the past year.

Commissions: Nurture and Outreach. Community outreach including participation in the UA 4th of July parade stressing that Covenant is a place for all ages; two make-up dates for pictures for the directory. Mission and Social Concerns. Presbytery's plans for Region Mission Work Projects on Sat., July 25; New volunteers needed for the summer tutoring program; Presbytery plans for a Gulf Mission Trip in October with application forms available from Betsy Tannehill and www.psvonline.org.

Children's Ministries. Group activities for children just below the middle school age; VBS will be the last full week of July; Blessing of the Backpacks planned for August. Adult Learning. Will sponsor three programs through the summer and add an adult Bible study in the fall with a forum on the program for the communicant's class. Youth. Working on plans for the summer mission trips; The Café did well again this year; Plans for programs for the college students who will be home for the summer. Worship and Arts. Will evaluate Preacher from the Pew for this year; Plans being made for Heritage Sunday. Stewardship and Budget. Reviewed the 10-month financial statements; Pledges through Pledge Sunday total 165 giving units, \$552,133. Properties. An air handler had to be replaced at a cost of \$5,000; The insurance representative was able, because of new equipment, safety equipment, and the fact that we have a facilities manager, to offer a lower premium. Personnel. Passed out a new Personnel Manual with proposed changes that will be brought for action at the June Meeting of Session; The staff review process has been completed and resulted in good reviews for all; James Hamilton was approved as a new member of the Permanent Funds Committee.—Paul Morton, Clerk

Regional Mission Work Day

Sat., July 25, 8 am-5 pm

Would you like to serve God by working hands-on to help people in our Presbytery? Do you like to serve with a paint-brush, broom, shovel, or rake, or a tool belt around your waist? Then join us for the Regional Mission Work Day. The Presbytery

Council organizes this day when congregations like ours partner with others to work at three different sister congregations in Ohio, including southern, central, and northern locations. McArthur Presbyterian Church might be one of the locations. The work will be

either on the church itself, or within the neighboring community. Contact Cathy Levy, cathy.levy@gmail.com, 527-0202, if you would like details (time, meeting place, and work involved) as they become available. We'll also post a sign-up sheet on the Salt & Light board.



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. Registration booklets with details are on the information table in the hall.

Covenant Men's Breakfast Second Sat. Each Month, 8 am

Join other Covenant men for breakfast at the Kingsdale First Watch each month. Call Allan Kennedy, 451-9318.

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.

Wonder-filled Gift Cards: Rebuilding Homes, Reassuring Children, Restoring Hope

Covenant Presbyterian Women are asking all of us to donate prepaid gift cards that will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children. This direct and flexible use of spending power offers a way to provide what is needed quickly in times of emergency and for specific needs of individuals.

We are asking for donations of \$20 gift cards from any one of these stores: Home Depot, Lowe's, Target, and K-mart. Covenant Women attending the PW Churchwide Gathering in Louisville on July 11 will be taking these with them to be dedicated during a worship service. Your gifts will soon begin rebuilding homes, reassuring children and restoring hope. Should you wish to give \$40 or more, please purchase additional gift cards in the amount of \$20 each. Look for the donation box outside the pastors' offices, or drop them in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

Member Information Forms

Thanks to all those who recently completed the revised Member Information forms. If you have not filled one out yet, there will be more available for the next few weeks on the welcome table in the hall. Please complete both sides.

Mortland Scholarship & Permanent Funds Ministry

In May we announced the recipient of the Jean Mortland Memorial Scholarship: Covenant member Jason Radcliff, who is going to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. This is a wonderful example of a way that one can create a gift that continues to bless others year after year. Jean Mortland's family asked that her bequest be used to create a scholarship for music or theological education for people related to Covenant Presbyterian Church. People can create their own gifts, not only as parts of their estates, but also in special gifts along life's path.

Blessing Of The Bikes And Riders

In May, "bikers" of all ages gathered in the parking lot for the First Annual Blessing of the Bikes and Riders. Appreciation is extended to all who participated and to Betsy Hayes and members of Covenant's youth groups who hosted the "Dog and Suds" lunch. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's Blessing on Sun., May 2, 2010. And remember: Let's be careful out there.

Salt & Light

Hands-On Local Mission: Open Shelter

Thurs., July 9 & Aug. 13, 1pm,
Help is needed in July and August to prepare 175 lunches that are delivered to the Open Shelter each month. If you can help make sandwiches and pack lunch bags, sign up on the

sheets on the Salt and Light Board in the hall next to the Information Table, or call Mona Connolly, 777-0451.

Mission Opportunities

June 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.

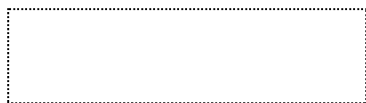
August Issue of *Your Communicator*

August issue info should be emailed by Mon., July 13, 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., July 23 at 9 am in Fellowship Hall and we would love your help. Call us at 451-6677.

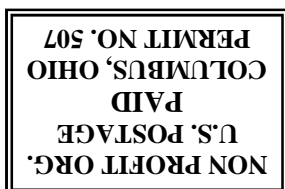
Church Office: 614-451-6677 Fax: 614-451-1326
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Website: www.covenantpcusa.org

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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