

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Covenant Staff

Advent! Preparation for the coming of Christ! (Plus a great deal of shopping; putting up a tree, and decorating it and the house; sending and receiving cards; having lunch with old friends; making dips for parties; planning family gatherings; counting calories and then saying, oh, the heck with it, then panicking when the clothes are too tight; watching spending, and saying, oh the heck with it, then panicking at the thought of the bills coming in January; watching football; complaining about the weather and the heating bills; trying to make the season special for children and grandchildren, while at the same time trying to keep the greed and hysteria to a minimum...) Is it any wonder that we find this to be one of the most stressful seasons of the year?

Every year, someone tries to tell us how to simplify the season, and every year we seem to get caught up in the whitewater rapids of expectations. Maybe it IS possible to narrow down our scope so that we spend our time and energy (and let's face it, money) where it matters the most.

Think in terms of the things that last, rather than the things that are easily forgotten. For many of us, Christmas is most about faith, family, and friendship. It is about relationships — our relationship with God, with the people we love the most, and with those who need our love. The temporary things — the food, the presents, the decorations are not as important as we sometimes allow them to become. They might enhance the season, but they are not the “non-negotiables” of the season. The necessities as I see them:

FAITH: Find ways to nourish your faith this season. Read the Advent devotional. Set aside a little time for just listening to the quiet. (First you may have to find the quiet!) Come to church. For many of us, it is the only place where everything is designed to help you open your heart to the Holy. Go caroling; it's the Gospel story put to music. And remember that your relationship with God is something you want to tend to all year long. Christmas just provides some unusual opportunities. Try not to make the Holy Spirit have to pry your heart open or have to beg for your attention.

FAMILY: Hey, they're yours! Spend time with the ones to whom you are indispensable. Give them your best self. Relax with them. Enjoy them. Revel in them. (If your extended family has some jagged edges, be patient with them and with yourself. Find ways to enjoy their idiosyncrasies.) Laugh as often as you can. Try to keep perspective. Shake off hurtful words and give others the benefit of the doubt. Some folks are tactless, and some are downright snarky, but don't give them the power to take away your joy. Love them anyway! Give thanks to God for each one of them. Let them know how loved they are.

FRIENDSHIP: Sometimes those Christmas cards and letters are the only way you hear from friends from the past. Give thanks for them and for the things in life you have shared. If they brag a bit too much, just smile. It's good to know that some folks had a year they were pleased with. If they have had a tough year, give them a call. If you have the opportunity to actually get together with some of them, try to appreciate the changes time has brought while enjoying reminiscences. It's wonderful to be with someone who knew the child you once were, or the younger version of who you are now.

Be sure to reach out with something extra for someone who needs a boost. Be a friend to the homeless, the hungry, the folks who are down on their luck.

And about the rest of it... don't sweat it. The most important memories you make are the ones having to do with faith, family, and friends, not hors d'oeuvres or wreathes or how many presents are under that tree.

May this be a truly blessed
Advent Season for you!
Grace and peace,

Tracy



Caregivers – Handling The Holidays

On Sunday, Nov. 4 the Older Adult Ministry hosted an event for caregivers after worship. We were excited about the turnout and by responses to the survey we circulated. From that survey we learned that a number of caregivers would like to gather regularly for support and education. So, the Older Adult Ministry is venturing forth. On Sunday, Dec. 9, following the 11:00 am worship service, OAM is hosting an event: "Handling The Holidays." Caregivers and care receivers are invited to come and share ideas on how to manage the holiday season. We will be discussing ways to make the holidays special for caregivers and for care receivers. Jim Mehler, Parish Associate, will lead the conversation. A light lunch will be served. Although reservations aren't required, we would like to hear if you are planning to attend so we know how much "grub" to get. Let us hear from you about this and other ideas for caregiver support. If you have questions about this event or other Caregiver Support programs, please call Janet Muench at 771-9295 or Jim Mehler at 451-6677. Also, if you are interested, there are audio CDs of the Nov. 4 presentation available. Just contact the church office.

Caregiver Resources – On The Web

Anyone seeking information about caring for older adults will find it abundantly on the internet. One web site often leads to many others. As always, the reader must take caution and make good judgments about the information offered. Here are four websites that you may find helpful and informative.

1. **www.n4a.org/locator** — The Eldercare Locator is the first step to finding resources for older adults in any US community. It is a free national service of the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. One phone call or Website visit provides an instant connection to resources that enable older persons to live independently in their communities. Support services for caregivers are also available. For information and referral to community-based services, contact the Eldercare Locator at 1.800.677.1116 weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., ET or visit **www.eldercarelink.com**.

2. **www.caregiver.com** — This site provides tips for the

primary caregiver of an elderly person via their website and a newsletter they will email. Magazines, books, and various products to aid persons with disabilities are for sale.

3. **www.strengthforcaring.com** — This site offers great information on all topics of interest to care givers. Its slogan is, "Helping you take care," and offers many suggestions for ways the care giver can take care of herself and has topics dealing with the illness or condition of the care receiver.

4. **www.nfcacares.org** — The National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA) supports, empowers, educates, and speaks up for the more than 50 million Americans who care for a chronically ill, aged, or disabled loved one. NFCA reaches across the boundaries of different diagnoses, relationships and life stages to address the common needs and concerns of all family caregivers. On their site you will find more websites of interest, published articles on care giving, and a newsletter.

Aging In God's Care

Losing the ability to drive a car is one of the most traumatic situations a person can face. Many who can't drive are dependent upon family and friends to take them everywhere. Here in the Columbus area there are other options:

✚ Covenant's Deacons operate the C.A.R.E.S. program. Please contact Betsy Campbell 614-451-3480 or Jay McLean 614-457-9177 to request a ride to an appointment or to church. For those Covenant members who can drive, this is an opportunity for service.

✚ The Upper Arlington Commission on Aging along with the Upper Arlington Senior Center publishes a booklet, "2006 Resource Directory." A list of transportation providers can be found on page 23. Contact them at 583-5326 for a copy.

For more information on transportation or issues concerning aging or care giving, contact Janet Muench, Older Adults Resources Counselor, through the church office 451-6677 or at home 771-9295.

The Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain, sponsored by the Board of Deacons, invites Covenant members and friends to pray for others as well as to request prayers. If you would like to join, contact the church office at 451-6677 and tell the receptionist. The Prayer Chain Coordinator will contact you. Similarly, if you would like to request prayers for someone or for yourself, call the church office with your request. **Whenever possible, obtain the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayers.**

Hands-On Local Mission

Donations for Open Shelter Donations are collected throughout the year for the Open Shelter. Help the Deacons provide toiletries for their homeless residents. Sample sizes are preferred, but all sizes are helpful. There is a “Hygiene Kits” box inside the door of the Pastors’ area. Items needed include: small bars of soap, sample sizes of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant/antiperspirant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors.

Mission Sewing Group The mission sewing group meets on Tuesdays from 1-3 pm. We are working on a variety of projects including chemo caps, the quilt for 2008, scrubbies, pot holders, hanging towels, and layette blankets. The group is led by Martha Circle, but we welcome all church women to join us. We need people to cut fabric, pin items, hand sew, crochet or knit and quilt. For more information call Diana Sanders 847-4431.

International Mission

Assist Mike Haninger

Our Mission Co-worker, Mike Haninger, in the Congo at good Shepherd Hospital in Tshikaji, must return here frequently for medical tests to make sure his cancer continues in remission. He needs assistance to pay for these

since there is no coverage for them by the PC(USA). It does provide transportation for regular leaves every five years when mission personnel are expected to report on their experiences. Please be aware that there are connections by prayer and correspondence without

financial support. You may have known him as Michael Haninger, M.D. when he was a physician here, or as Mission Co-worker who has come to speak to us. Keep Mike and his wife, Nancy, in your prayers. If you can, write checks to Covenant Presbyterian Church and designate “for Missionary Travel.”

Increased Mission Opportunities

Mission happens through the summer, but increases in the fall. During summer there are Salt & Light opportunities, people helping with Habitat homes, youth mission trips, lunches for homeless, SOS pantry efforts and more. Involvement increases when school begins. Find out more from sign up sheets, posters and more frequent Covenant Mission presentations during worship. Think about participating in Deacon projects. Watch for letters from our Mission co-workers. Be sure to read the Bulletin inserts or contact Karen Hjelm, 326-1433, hjelm@columbus.rr.com.

Remember our Mission Connections

at Advent Event Each year during the Advent Event our Mission Interpretation Committee has a table in Fellowship Hall where we have cards for friends with whom we are connected by mission. Please be sure you stop by to sign them on Sunday, Nov. 25. There will also be lists of current addresses if you wish to send your personal greetings later.

Mission in Managua

Here is an excerpt from Covenant’s Beth Askue’s son Geoff Stetson latest message from Managua, Nicaragua: “Three year old Jolis was kicked out of Manna’s preschool class because he was too much of a distraction, so a tutor told him he is considered developmentally delayed, but his problem is he doesn’t have a father, his mom doesn’t pay any attention to him (except to hit him or laugh at him), and his house is full of fighting. Usually we read, color, make paper airplanes or play soccer. We only get a few pages through a book before he tells me it’s ugly and he wants to color. Then he doesn’t want to color. When I try to get him to do something, he calls me a fag, a word he picked up from the kids on the street. But he is the cutest kid and I know his misbehavior is from a lack of attention so I look past our difficulties. Things with Jolis are getting better. He pays a lot more attention now when he sits on my lap to read. All he needs to be a good kid is a little love and attention, and that’s what I’m trying to provide” (Look for Jolis’ picture on the bulletin board by the parking lot door.)

Christian Education

Katie's Corner

In the next two months the liturgy (the forms and words and notes of worship) and the lectionary (the combination each week of Hebrew and Greek scriptures) of the Church will prepare our hearts for the arrival of the Messiah, will look for the second coming of the Risen Lord, and will celebrate and ponder the incomprehensible incarnation of God as a first century Palestinian baby who will change everything forever. We are going to be busy.

Let me put it another way: what we have before us utterly amazing, and we had better **not** be busy if we are to pay attention to the wonders God is working. For in the church, we don't simply believe that God did these things at a certain point in history (though we do believe that), we insist that this work continues today in us and in all of Creation. Our call is to notice how what happened so long ago in a land we name Holy affects today. How is the Kingdom of God lived now that Jesus has come? Who would God have us be? What would God have us do? Who would God have us include, invite, initiate into this reign of peace and love and justice? Soon we will realize once again that God has become flesh and dwelt among us. Soon we will see what it means to live as children of God. So, stop being so busy. We have a lot to do.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

The Forum Lounge, 9:45 am

Led by Katie Kinnison, Director of Christian Education

December 2 The Advent of Jesus: When Is It Exactly?

December 9 Looking at It All: Who is Jesus?

December 16 The Trinity: A Relational God

December 23 In Christ You Are a New Creation: But How?

December 30 Feast on Words and Cookies: Join us in the Lounge for food for the body and the spirit as we share good books to read in the winter months.

“Laughter and the Christian Life in the 21st Century” Book Talk by Jacqueline Bussie

Sunday, Dec. 4 at 6:45 pm in the Lounge

“My reconsideration of laughter argues that laughter interrupts the system and state of oppression, and creatively attests to hope, resistance, and protest in the face of the shattering of language and traditional framework of thought and belief. Simply put, the laughter of the oppressed functions as an invaluable means of ethical and theological resistance.” Jacqueline A. Bussie, *Laughter of the Oppressed: Ethical and Theological Resistance* in Weisel, Morrison, and Endo.s

Join us for an engaging look at the power of laughter as we are introduced to a new book by Jacqueline Bussie. Enjoy refreshments and have a chance to have your copy of the book signed by the author. Then she will introduce us to her work with a talk designed for people who may or may not have read her book. Copies are available in the church library and in the church office at a discount of \$15 until they run out. Checks should be made payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church. We will also be having book discussions that coincide with the works Bussie addresses: *Gates of the Forest* by Elie Wiesel in Jan., *Silence* by Shusako Endo in Feb., and *Beloved* by Toni Morrison in March.

New Web Site

Session hired a wonderful woman, Sandra Kierke, to redesign our website, to make it attractive and easy to navigate. So, get on the internet and type in www.covenantpcusa.org and see how many wonders there are to behold at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Wednesday Nights at Covenant

January 9, 16, 23, 30

6:00 pm: Dinner

Adults - \$7, Ages 3-12 - \$3,

Under 3 – Free, Families - \$17

6:30-7:30 pm:

Kid's—POWER PLAY! For Preschool, Elementary and Middle School Children: Working on Daniel and the Lion's Den to perform for the congregation.

Adults—Two new exciting options: “Christianity 101” and “Living Out Our Faith” (Check upcoming Sunday Bulletins for more details.)

FREE Child Care for Under Three.

The Artist's Way, Volumes 1 and 2

A new group is forming to begin working through a 12- week program of daily writing, artist's dates, and exercises designed to free up our creative spirituality. We'll be working through Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way*. For information, contact Katie or show up at the first gathering on Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 7 pm in the Lounge. Artist's Way, Volume 1, a group that has already worked through the program once will meet Tuesday Jan. 15 at 7:00 pm in the Lounge to continue to celebrate and support each other's creativity.

Book Discussion, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7-8:30 pm: Elie Wiesel's *The Gates of the Forest*

Imagine a life-and-death struggle between two angels: the angel of love and the angel of wrath; the angel of promise and the angel of evil. Imagine that they both attain their ends, each one victorious. Imagine the laugh that would rise above their corpses as if to say, "Your death has given me birth; I am the soul of your

conflict, its fulfillment as well." The laugh of the man who had saved his life.

Join us as we read the first of the three books Bussie discusses in her Laughter and the Christian Life. Copies of the book are \$12 in the church library and the church office. See Katie Kinnison for more information.

For Children

Treasure Finders: The Way of the Child

In December our Treasure Finders (children from three years old through sixth grade who learn and celebrate and share in God's love every Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:45) will begin a new unit using a curriculum called "The Way of the Child." As we study the stories that prepare us for that baby being born, we will learn ways to nurture the treasure of the Holy Spirit within us. We will help our children strengthen their relationships with God through learning, prayer, art, conversation, stillness and play. During our Advent Event, Room 120, we will show a brief DVD about this new curriculum.

- Dec. 2 Zechariah and Elizabeth
- Dec. 9 Mary
- Dec. 16 Shepherds
- Dec. 23 Simeon and Anna
- Dec. 30 No Sunday School
- Jan. 6 The Magi
- Jan. 13 You Belong to God
- Jan. 20 God's Love and Care
- Jan. 27 Psalm 23
- Feb. 3 Looking to Lent

Mark Your Calendars

- February Children's Event
- February 6 Ash Wednesday
- February 13 Preacher in the Pew Begins
- March 21 TGIGF
- June 30-July 4 Pittsburgh Project, Middle School
- July 16-23 Sr. High Honduras Trip
- July 28- Aug. 1 Vacation Bible School

Sunday Night Bible Study

Lounge, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Beginning Dec. 9.

Daniel—Join us in the Lounge on Sunday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 pm (except the first Sunday of the month when we meet from 7:00 to 8:00 pm to accommodate our worship service). Katie Kinnison, Director of Christian Education, will lead us in studying both the familiar stories about Daniel and his friends of fiery furnace fame, and the apocalyptic words about the Son of Man.

Youth

Chi Rho and Connections Ski Trip to Holiday Valley January 25-27th

Once again we will be heading over to Holiday Valley for a great weekend of skiing. We will stay slope side and have a great time. Cost for the trip will be around \$200 per person. You will need to bring your own skis/snowboard equipment and money for four meals (around \$30). A \$100 deposit is due to Michele by Dec. 9 to reserve your spot.

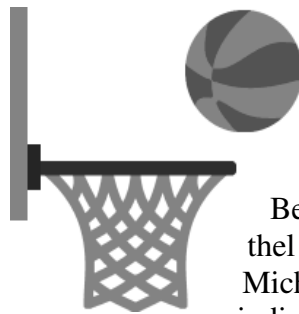
Back Again:

Youth Honey Baked Ham Sale

Tired of waiting in line for your Christmas Ham? We have a solution: purchase your ham from the Youth Program and then simply pick it up here at the church. You will avoid all those long lines and you pay the same menu price as in the store. You may place your order at our table in the hall on Sunday mornings starting Dec. 2 and ending Dec. 16. Make checks out to The Honey Baked Ham Company. Your orders will be ready for pick up on the Dec. 22 of just in time for Christmas! Not only do you get a great Ham and avoid long lines, but you are supporting our Youth Program as well. We hope if you are planning on purchasing a Honey Baked product this Christmas, you will purchase it from us.

Annual Youth Retreat Feb. 8-10 at Akita

I know a lot of you went on this retreat last year because you were in the confirmation program and had lots of fun! The good news is that you can go again this year! The cost is \$70 and if you are not up for skiing in January, come with us in February to meet youth from all over. Don't miss it and bring your friends too! Contact Michele Nordine to reserve your spot no later than Jan. 13.



High School Basketball League

First Game is on a Monday in January: This is a coed recreational league for church teams in northwest Columbus. All games are played at Bethel United Methodist Church on Bethel Road. To get a ride to the game, meet Michele at the church a half hour before the indicated game time. Cost is \$5 to play for the season. This is a "fun league" so come out and help make this a great season. For more information contact Michele Nordine at 273-5990.

Youth Mission Trips Full!

For those of you who don't know yet, the senior high youth are going to Montana De Luz in Honduras this summer to work at an AIDS/HIV orphanage. Montana De Luz ("mountain of light") is an orphanage just an hour north of the capital, Tegucigalpa. The organization that runs this is based right here in Columbus and run by Vicki Rush. We reserved her maximum capacity of

16 spots and filled that with just youth! Vicki has offered us an extra three spots for adults. For a complete list of who is going, check our new church website. The website for the orphanage is www.montanadeluz.org. We are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to talking with many of you about it before and after, and always appreciate your

support of our youth mission ventures!

The middle school youth are going to the Pittsburgh Project again and are very much looking forward to going back after serving there last summer. Again, a list of who is attending can be found on the church website.

Chi Rho and Connections Schedule for December and January

- Dec. 2 Connections at 5:00p, Sunday night service at 6:00p, Chi Rho at 7:00p
- Dec. 9 Regular Connections (5-7:00p) and Chi Rho (6-8:00p)
- Dec. 16 Caroling (3-6:00p) and Christmas party (6-8:00p)
- Dec. 23 No Connections and Chi Rho
- Dec. 30 No Connections and Chi Rho
- Jan. 6 Connections at 5:00p, Sunday night service at 6:00p, Chi Rho at 7:00p
- Jan. 13 Regular Connections (5-7:00p) and Chi Rho (6-8:00p)
- Jan. 20 Community worship night with UA churches at Trinity UMC (5-10:00p)
- Jan. 27 No Connections & Chi Rho due to BIG Ski Weekend!

Stay Tuned...

Youth and all members of Covenant Presbyterian, please stay tuned for more details on Covenant Café, Mission trips meetings and fundraisers and Youth Sunday in late April!

Adopt-A-Family: Christmastime Ministry

The Deacons will once again offer Covenant members the opportunity to broaden their joy at the holiday season by sharing their abundance with less fortunate families. Plan now to form groups and adopt a family by agreeing to supply new toys and clothing for the children and a gift for the adults. Margaret A. Watson, a social worker who has assisted us for many years with this program, and the Salvation Army, have already provided information on several families. Please do not wrap gifts. You can help by letting us know of your interest as soon as possible so we know how many families we can serve. Covenant has helped 10-15 families in the recent past; can we match that or help even more? The Deacons will contribute a gift card to Krogers for the family's use. Make financial contributions by writing your check to *Covenant*, marking it for Adopt-A-Family. For information, to sign up for a family, or to help by shopping, wrapping or delivering gifts, contact Cathy Levy 527-0202, or Jay McLean 457-9177.

Thanks Again!

CROP Walk was again a wonderful success. More than 20 Covenant members participated in the walk on a beautiful October Sunday, raising in excess of \$2,500 to fight hunger around the world and within Franklin County. Thanks to all who walked, and to all who supported them.

Deacons' Minutes

Covenant's Board of Deacons met in regular session on Oct. 23 in the Lounge. Moderator Linda Van Aman called the group to order and opened with prayer. Deb Marsh provided devotions. After the Super Ministry teams met, minutes of the previous month's meeting were approved. Signup lists were distributed and there was discussion about cleaning up the church before the Presbytery meeting, greeters, parking lot greeters and ushers.

A new Deacon Prayer Book was distributed. Deacons are asked to share their favorite prayers, which can then be added to future editions. Dates to remember were also brought before the group.

The Fall Deacons Sunday was a success, with the Deacons playing prominent roles in the service that morning. More cider and doughnut holes had be retrieved to accommodate everyone in the hallway.

Deacons is still seeking Friendly Visitors. Those who are interested should contact the church office. Also, Deacons continue to collect toiletries (the small, courtesy bottles provided by hotels) to give to the Open Shelter, which may be moving soon to St. John's Episcopal Church.

The CROP Walk was a success, with 25 walkers raising more than \$2,500.

The Deacons-led Bloodmobile had a quota of 25 units and collected 27.

The group also discussed ways to maintain support for COMPASS. Adopt-A-Family is up and running with Margaret A. Watson and the Salvation Army helping to provide families. Covenant members wishing to support this important charity should sign up in the hallway or can send checks in care of Adopt-A-Family to the church office. Jim Mehler closed the Oct. meeting with prayer.

Christmas Joy Offering

Watch for bulletin inserts about the major offering of our denomination to assist retired clergy, former missionaries, church workers and their families by providing supplemental income and medical insurance. In 1964 this was used for health and welfare needs of children. The emphasis on global needs of children continued until 1973 when it was also used to help former church workers who received inadequate pensions. In 1974 racial ethnic education was added, and in 1979 nursing home care was included. In 1988, the PCUS and UPCUSA offerings were combined into one offering and named the Christmas Offering Joy Gift. In 1991 our General Assembly voted that receipts be divided evenly between the Board of Pensions and racial ethnic schools and colleges. Envelopes are included in this Communicator and will be in the pews, and you will hear about it in a Covenant in a Mission presentation. It is hoped we all respond generously since along with Peacemaking and One Great Hour of Sharing, it is one of three special denominational offerings Covenant supports.

Worship in December and January

Sunday, December 2, 2007—World Communion – First Sunday of Advent

Scripture: OT Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5; NT Lesson: Romans 13:11-14
Sermon: Now, Tracy Keenan preaching
Choral Music: 8:30 Creator of the Stars of Night, Plainsong, Early Birds, Chancel Choir with Merrymakers
11:00 Rejoice! Rejoice!, Aaron David Miller, Early Birds, Chancel Choir
Instrumental: Music for Recorders, Merrymakers Ensemble
6:00 Are We There Yet, Tracy Keenan preaching; Music by Youth Band, Guest artist Debbie Brennan

Sunday, December 9, 2007—Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture: OT Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12; OT Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10* (Focus passage)
Sermon: The Jesse Tree, Tracy Keenan preaching
Choral Music: 8:30 An Advent Prayer, Allen Pote, Early Bird
11:00 The Donkey Carol, John Rutter, Chancel Choir
Love Has Come, Traditional Carol, Early Birds and Chancel Choir with Campanile Bell Choir
Instrumental: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People, Arranged by Jeffrey Honore, Campanile Bell Choir
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People, Arranged by Paul O. Manz, Weldon Adams, Organ

Sunday, December 16, 2007—Third Sunday of Advent—Music Sunday

Choral Music: The Christmas Oratorio, Camille Saint-Saëns, Chancel Choir, Soloists, Harp, Strings and Organ
Instrumental: Music for Harp, Jude Mollenhauer
Allegro giocoso, Camille Saint-Saëns, Weldon Adams, Organ

Sunday, December 19, 2007— Longest Night Service

Choral Music: *The King Shall Come*, Donald Busarow, Alfred V. Fedak, Weldon Adams, Organ with Choir
Improvisation on Pange lingua, Weldon Adams, Weldon Adams, Organ

Sunday, December 23, 2007— Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture: OT Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16; NT Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25
Sermon: Expect More, Tracy Keenan preaching
Choral Music: Somebody's Comin' Tonight, David Lantz III, Early Birds
Sing Hosanna! Sannanina!, South African Traditional, Chancel Choir
Concert for the King, Tim Van Brummelen
Somebody's Comin' Tonight, David Lantz III, Chancel Choir & Praise B
Instrumental: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, John Behnke
Chant, Meditation and Toccata, Weldon Adams, Organ

December 24, 2007 5:00 pm CHILDREN'S PAGEANT – CHRISTMAS EVE

Choral Music: Carols and Anthems sung by the children
Instrumental: Noels X and XII, Louis Claude Daqui, Weldon Adams, Organ

8:00PM – LESSONS AND CAROLS – CHRISTMAS EVE

Choral Music: The People Who Walk in the Darkness, Timothy Valentine
Advent Canticle, Mark Hayes
A Child Is Born in Bethlehem, Michael Praetorius, Chancel Choir
Instrumental: La Nativite, Jean Langlais
Noel XII, Louis Claude, Weldon Adams, Organ

Worship in December & January

11:00 – COMMUNION – CHRISTMAS EVE

Choral Music: Solos for the Season
Instrumental : La Nativite, Jean Langlais
Noel XII, Louis Claude Daquin, Weldon Adams, Organ

December 30, 2007—First Sunday after Christmas

Scripture: OT Lesson: Psalm 148; NT Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23
Sermon: The Part We Want Left Out, Katie Kinnison preaching
Choral Music On Christmas Night, Sussex Carol, Arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams
Instrumental : Music for Flute and Keyboard, Rodolfo Vazquez, Flute; Weldon Adams, Keyboard

January 6, 2008 - Communion – Epiphany Sunday – OFFICER INSTALLATION

Choral Music You Are Mine, David Haas, Early Birds and Chancel Choir
Walk in the Light, Andrae Thomas, Chancel Choir
Instrumental: Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, Anton Bruckner
Trio from Symphony IV, Anton Bruckner
Nachspiel No 2, Anton Bruckner, Weldon Adams, Organ

January 13, 2008—Baptism of the Lord

Choral Music Down Galilee's Slow Roadways, Sylvia Dunstan, Early Birds and Chancel Choir
Instrumental: Wade in the Water Spiritual, Arranged by Hart Morris
Morning Has Broken, Gaelic Melody, Arranged by Linda McKechnie, Campanile Bell Choir
Sonata in D Flat Major: Movement I, Joseph Rheinberger, Weldon Adams, Organ

January 20, 2008—Second Sunday of Epiphany

Choral Music: Praise, Praise the Lord, Cameroon Melody, 8:30 Early Birds; 11:00 Chancel Choir & Percussion
Done Made My Vow, Spiritual Arranged by Frederick Young, Tenor Solo & Chancel Choir
Instrumental: Sonata in D Flat Major: Movements II and III, Joseph Rheinberger, Weldon Adams, Organ

January 27, 2008—Third Sunday of Epiphany

Choral Music: If We Ever Needed the Lord/Down By the Riverside, Joseph M. Martin, Early Birds and Praise B
Give Us Your Peace, Michael Mahler, Roberta Adams, Soloist; Chancel Choir; Praise B
Instrumental: Fantasia in F Major, Josef Ferdinand Norbert Seger
Toccata and Fugue in D Major, Josef Ferdinand Norbert Seger, Weldon Adams, Organ

Gift of Learning

This is the season for giving, so give the gift of yourself for an hour a week to a child who needs help learning to read. There is a waiting list of students and it is unlikely they will get the help they need before the first of the year. When kids are not succeeding in school it is very discouraging for them. Please consider being a part of this local mission.

Maybe you have a friend, neighbor or teen who would like to tutor. Also, contributions of school supplies are so helpful. Families on a limited income struggle to pay for them. Your mission work is appreciated by our students and their families. Check out our new pamphlets in the show case and in the Upper Arlington Library. Call Carol Petro, 485-0094, jpetero@aol.com.

2008 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 Jan. This year, the per capita is \$26.23 per member, for a total payment due of \$18,465.92. This figure is based upon our church membership roll as of Dec. 31, 2006. Please consider paying your fair share. Thank you, Your Stewardship & Budget Commission.

Other News

The Wish List

What used to be called the Gifts and Memorial Wish List of Stewardship and Budget is now titled The Wish List. Some wishes start with a dream, others out of necessity, but all are seriously considered. If a suggestion is of a permanent fixture, we seek approval from the Properties Commission. Once approval is given, The Wish List Committee takes action: shopping, getting quotes, designs, size, etc. Sometimes items are purchased outright by contributions made in memory of a loved one. A designated relative of the memorial loved one is contacted for approval. We ask that you consider all the recommendations in the Wish. Some items, if marked, can be gently used. You don't have to purchase or donate the full amount; you may request to donate a portion towards the recommendation. If you have such an item that you would like to donate to Covenant, contact Lynn Elliott, 459-2011, raelliottsr@prodigy.net.

Alternative Gifts

This holiday season, honor people you love with a charitable gift in their name. We suggest a gift to COMPASS, a social service program supported by Covenant Deacons Fund. COMPASS helps people avoid the vicious cycle of homelessness when they have fallen behind in their rent or mortgage due to unexpected circumstances. Services include rent and utility assistance, counseling, employ-

ment assistance, household goods, and referrals to other resources. Contributions made before Dec. 31 will be matched dollar for dollar through a 2007 Challenge Grant. Your gift, in whatever amount, will be doubled. COMPASS donation cards are available in the literature rack in the hallway. This holiday season, honor those you love with a gift in their name.

Year End Contributions - From the Finance Office

A reminder to our faithful contributors: please make sure your year end contributions are received in the church office no later than Dec. 31. Any contributions received after Dec. 31, will be credited for the year 2008. If you have any questions about your contributions, call Ingrid Brooker between 8:30 – 4:00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Merry Christmas to all of you and may the New Year bring happiness and good health to all of you! Ingrid Brooker, Financial Administrator.

Once-a-Month Sunday Night Service Continues

Why add another service?

Our current worship services are meaningful, warm, of great variety and quality. We don't want to change any of our current worship services because they are serving their purposes well. However, we would like to explore an alternative-type worship service geared more toward young adults, youth, children, and anyone else who is interested. The goal is to offer a more participatory, hands-on and interactive worship experience with multi-media, more pop/rock/alternative music, and story. We are becoming very intentional about meeting the needs of folks who would better connect with this kind of alternative worship experience.

Why once a month?

Once a month would be a manageable endeavor for now. The basic theme will be the same as the morning's worship service and will include communion. But the style, music selections, and even the way the message is presented will all be geared to this special group of participants.

Who is responsible for the service?

The Youth Commission, Worship and Arts, and Children's Ministries are working with the staff to create and lead these services. We encourage music and liturgical leadership from among the youth and young families.

What can we call this service?

For now, we are just calling it the "Sunday Night Service." Or, the "Once-a Month Sunday Night Service."

Basic Schedule:

5:00 *Connections* meets on Lower Level

6:00 Worship

6:45 Fellowship time and sandwich making for the homeless

7:00 Chi Rho and Adult Bible Study

Child Care will be available if needed.



Tips for a “Green” Holiday

Greenie, the mascot for Justice and Peace’s “It’s Easy to be Green” campaign, knows that many of us are hoping for a white Christmas. This month Greenie has some ideas about how to keep the “green” in Christmas by maintaining our responsibility to God’s creation during the holiday season. Consider an alternative gift such as making a donation to a worthy cause in the name of a loved one.

Almost all charitable organizations have provisions for making such gifts. For example, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has a list of alternative gift-giving opportunities that can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/tools/alternativegiving.htm>. Focus on reducing waste this holiday season. During the Thanksgiving to New Year period, Americans generate 25 percent more trash than at any other time of the year. A list of ideas for reducing waste can be found at <http://www.musc.edu/catalyst/>

[archive/2000/col1-17ideas.htm](http://www.musc.edu/catalyst/archive/2000/col1-17ideas.htm). One simple thing is to cancel the number of mail-order catalogs that arrive in your mailbox during this period. You can also shop locally to save fuel and help the local economy by supporting locally owned businesses. Global Gallery is one place where purchases promote fair trade and cultural enrichment. Set an example by giving homemade food items or creating something from reused items. These are just a few ways to make a white Christmas green.

Debt Retirement Update

By now you all should have received a letter and pledge card regarding Xing out our debt. To date, pledges and gifts have resulted in reducing that debt by \$92,200, which leaves \$133,800 yet to X out. As you consider your gift, think about giving stock or any other property that has increased in value. By doing this, you get full value of the assets as a tax deduction without paying capital gains tax. Remember that by Xing out our \$30,000-per-year debt, you’ll play an important role in re-directing that money towards endeavors that touch lives. If you need more details about the creative ways that you can contribute and save taxes, please contact a member of the Debt Retirement Committee today: Bob Hamilton, George McConnaughy, Dave Timmons or Dana Rudmose.

Scotland Heritage Tour in June 27-July 5 Join Tracy Keenan and other church family and friends on a tour of Scotland. For more information contact Charlotte Rodenfels at 404-7235 or email at char@travelXperts.com. Information may also be found on the table in the hallway.

PIYO for Improved Health Instructor Sandy Tullett leads classes in PIYO Mondays at 1:30 pm in the Lounge. PIYO is a blend of Pilates and Yoga focusing on increasing strength, flexibility and balance of the entire body with a relaxation component. Wear loose clothing and bring a mat or towel and water. It is free, but contributions go toward a mission chosen by the class members. No experience required.

Holiday Mitten Tree Covenant Crafters and friends have responded to the challenge of knitting 50 pairs of mittens for our 2007 Holiday Mitten Tree. We are closing in on our original goal and plan to continue knitting to make another 50 pairs! The mittens will be on display prior to donation to children in Adopt-A-Family and to local organizations that identify children in need. Each colorful pair is a work of art clearly made with TLC. We are happy to report that we have also received hand-knitted hats and scarves. These will be

on display and donated as well. We are continuing our original project of making and distributing afghans to those in need and still need knitted and crocheted rectangles (7”x 9”). A marked box is waiting for your donation in Room 120. We appreciate your support in our efforts to make a difference in the lives of children and those who are less fortunate. Thank you and remember, busy needles are happy needles!

Eggnog Sunday Dec. 9 Enjoy eggnog and Christmas cookies after the 11:00 service.

The Primetimers’ Christmas party will be at 6:00 pm on Friday, Dec. 28 at John Emrick’s home, 2601 Vassar Place. Questions: Call John 457-0599.

CPW Christmas Coffee The Covenant Presbyterian Women will hold their Christmas Coffee on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 9:30 am in the Covenant Lounge. All are welcome. The program will be on an Advent theme and will feature Rev. Debbie Lewicki, Pastor, Groveport Presbyterian Church. Attendees are invited to bring an unwrapped clothing item(s) for children ages birth to 5 years to be given to children who are currently without a permanent home. For more information, contact Susan Imel 262-7444 or Mona Connolly 777-0451.

Treasure Finders Presents: Covenant at the Zoo

Come stroll through the beauty of the Christmas lights at the Columbus Zoo, Wednesday, Dec. 5 from 5-7:30pm, and use your special map to find some Covenant Treasures along your way. Check out our church web site and Sunday worship Bulletins for more details. Transportation will be available. Bring your friends!! Questions? Contact Katie Kinnison for more information.

Mission Sewing Group

Martha Circle wants to thank all of you who purchased "Opportunities" for the 2007 Quilt. More than 1,500 opportunities were sold. This included 475 scrubbies, 150 potholders, plus other assorted items. All profits go to mission. This year's quilt was won by Randi Crook, daughter-in-law of Bob and Betty Crook. Five second-chance gifts were also given including a plate of Buckeyes, a can of Peanut Brittle and a can of Pecan Brittle. The Mission Sewing Group is open to anyone who would care to join us. We meet on Tuesdays from 1-3:00 pm. Any questions, call Diana Sanders 847-4431.

For the Feb. 2008 Issue

✠ The Article Information Form for all future submissions to *The Communicator* are available in the church office, or you may download a copy from our website at: www.covenantpcusa.org.

✠ **Information for the Feb. issue should be emailed by Tuesday, Jan. 8, at 4:30 pm to JP, Communications Administrator:**

✠ **joanpogalies@covenantpcusa.org.**

✠

✠ The Feb. 2008 *Communicator* will be assembled for mailing on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2007 at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. To help, call the church office at 614-451-6677.

Pastoral Leadership Team

Tracy Keenan, Senior Pastor

Weldon Adams, Minister of Music

Katie Kinnison, Director of Christian Education

Michele Nordine, Interim Director of Youth Ministry

James Mehler, Parish Associate

JP Pogalies, Communications Administrator

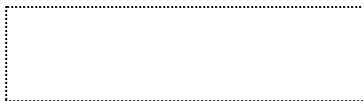
Ingrid Brooker, Financial & Membership Administrator

Lloyd Muench, Facilities Manager

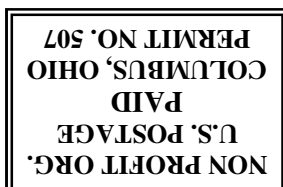
Church Office: 614-451-6677 Fax: 614-451-1326

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

Website: www.covenantpcusa.org



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