

Your *Communicator*

February 2008

The weeks of Lent are weeks of remembering Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, the forty years the people of Israel spent wandering in the wilderness, the spiritual disciplines that sustain us in the wilderness, and the kind of sharpened faith that comes out of wilderness times. We encounter various kinds of wilderness times in our lives. A wilderness time is filled with unknowing and uncertainty, and one finds one's self having to rely utterly on God at every turn and in every moment. Sometimes we go willingly into the wilderness, and sometimes wilderness is thrust upon us.

By the time this newsletter comes out I will be practicing an unusual kind of spiritual discipline in the wilderness: the kind imposed by surgery and recovery. I am expecting to learn a lot about prayer, patience, love, trust, and what it means to relinquish control. Mine is the kind of surgery (hysterectomy) that is all very routine, and nothing at all alarming. Of course, to a patient, surgery hardly feels "routine!" So I am hoping to listen very carefully to God throughout this temporary wilderness and learn a lot about faith. And some of you have already begun your prayers on my behalf, for which I am profoundly grateful.

My husband, Jim Mehler, will be increasing his time at Covenant while I am out of commission;

he will handle pastoral care and some of the preaching. He is planning to keep office hours at Covenant in the afternoon Monday through Thursday. Weldon, Katie, and the rest of our wonderful staff are all set to keep the wheels turning and the ministry happening. And, of course, you—the Covenant People—will continue doing all the things you do to share God's love with one another and with the world. I am so thankful that Covenant is filled with capable, faithful, and enthusiastic folks!

I plan to be back in the pulpit on the second Sunday of Lent (February 17). That way I can be with you as we continue the journey towards Easter and the celebration of the resurrection.

May this Lenten season bring with it a springtime-like blossoming of faith for all of us!

Grace and peace,
Tracy



Greeting – A Ministry

“You only have one opportunity to make a good first impression.”

“You only have a few minutes to shape a visitor’s perception.” This is from the faith community, and it has significance for congregations. Whether or not it is fair, visitors judge a congregation and determine if it is cold or warm within the first few minutes of their visit. They want to know if they will be outsiders who are intruding or if they will be wel-

come. At Covenant, they will know when they meet our Greeting Ministers. This is a group of trained greeters and escorts who will be positioned at the main doors for each worship service. At first it may seem a little strange for you since the Greeters will be charged with greeting everyone old and new. You will recognize how important it is to make visitors feel welcome and made comfortable.

You may come to worship one

Sunday morning and a greeter may say, “Good morning, welcome to church. I don’t recall meeting you. Have you been with us before?” You may feel a little dismayed that this greeter didn’t immediately recognize you and greet you by name. It has happened, it will happen again. Remember: First, these greeters are ministering for you and the whole congregation. They have responded to the call to be welcoming, engaging, and helpful for visitors. Support them and be patient with an occasional “oversight.”

Second, you, as an 8:30 am worshipper, may be greeted by a person who is an 11:00 am worshipper more familiar with those who worship at the same time. With about 300-400 people in worship each week, there are a lot of faces without names.

Third, you may not recognize everyone by name either. So, why not offer your name first, and if you want to mention how long you’ve been a member of Covenant, good.

Last, these teams of Greeter Ministers will not be in the same place at the same time every Sunday. It may take a little while for them to make the connection (face and name).

So, how would you like to join this exciting, challenging, and dynamic ministry? There will be additional opportunities to attend a Greeter Minister training session shared in the newsletter and bulletin. In the meantime, remember these new ministers with your support and prayer.

Mark Your Calendars: Spring Fest Saturday, March 8 at 9am, Presbytery Meeting Day at Drake Performance and Events Center, OSU. Keynoters: Dr. Darrell Guder author of *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*; Martha Lee Bohn McGahan, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Mississippi, Volunteer Coordinator, Katrina Relief.

News for Caregivers – from the Older Adult Ministry

The Office of the State Long-term Care Ombudsman advocates for consumers receiving home care, assisted living and nursing home care. They work to resolve complaints about services, help people select providers and provide information about benefits and consumer rights. Ombudsman staff and volunteers make regular visits to nursing homes. Call toll-free, 1-800-282-1206, to learn more or to volunteer.

Booklet Helps with Hiring an Independent Caregiver

The free, 12-page booklet, *Hiring an Independent Caregiver*, from the MetLife Mature Market Institute, explains how families can find and employ a home health care aide or companion without securing an agency. Prepared in cooperation with the National Alliance for Caregiving and MetLife's Nurse Care Managers, the guide includes sample employment ads to be placed in local newspapers, a suggested contract, interviewing tips, a resource guide and more. Web is:

www.metlife.com/WPSAssets/84528034901170875243V1FHiringanIndependentCaregiver2007.pdf

Caregivers Feel Financial Pinch of Caregiving Expenses

Half of those caring for a family member or friend 50 years or older are spending more than 10 percent of their annual income on caregiving expenses. “Caregivers - What They Spend, What They Sacrifice,” from Evercare and the National Alliance for Caregiving, found caregivers, including many who are low-income, are spending an average of \$5,500 a year on household goods, food, meals, transportation, medical co-payments, medication and medical supplies. This financial burden has caused many caregivers to use some of their savings or to cut back on their own healthcare spending. Find information <http://www.evercarehealthplans.com>.

And...

Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann last month launched the AG4OHIO Help Center, which makes it easier for Ohioans to access services and programs. The site, and its companion call center available toll-free at 1-877-AG4OHIO, offers information and answers about consumer fraud, identity theft, violent crime and charitable organizations. Look at www.ag4ohio.gov.

Adopt-a-Family – Success!

Thank you for again reaching out this Christmas to families in need through our Adopt-A-Family program. This program touched 23 less-fortunate families! Covenant groups including the Choirs, Bells, Youth Groups, Circles, Schooners, Square Table, and several Covenant families joined forces to provide the gifts. Donations from the congregation helped to defray costs. Bicycles, basketballs, books, and baby dolls were given to the children, and dishes, silverware, pots and pans, glasses, towels, and blankets were among the adults' wishes fulfilled. Many coats, shoes, sweaters, and pairs of jeans were also purchased for families. The Deacon fund provided \$100 Kroger gift certificates, and several sponsoring groups provided a food box as well. Thanks to the Craft Group for their generous donation of lovingly handmade mittens, scarves, and hats from the mitten tree. For the six families referred to us by Margaret A. Watson, we gathered at Southfield Community Baptist and presented the wrapped gifts at a small reception. We thank everyone who helped us host this inaugural reception! We thank the dozens and dozens of Covenant members who contributed to this program.

Salt & Light

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 1-3 pm working on a variety of projects including chemo caps, quilt for 2008, scrubbies, pot holders, hanging towels, and layette blankets. The group is led by Martha Circle, but we welcome all church women. We need people to cut fabric, pin items, hand sew, crochet or knit and quilt. Call Diana Sanders 847-4431.

Mission Opportunities

Mission happens throughout the year. During summer there are Salt & Light opportunities such as Habitat homes, youth mission trips, lunches for homeless, SOS pantry efforts. Involvement increases when school begins. Find out more from sign up sheets, posters and mission presentations. Think about participating in Deacon projects. Watch for letters from our Mission co-workers, read Bulletin inserts or contact Karen Hjelm, 326-1433, hjelm@columbus.rr.com.

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."

Mission in Managua

Here is an excerpt from Beth Askue's son Geoff Stetson's latest message from Managua, Nicaragua: "Managua's city dump, called La Chureca, is something you can't really believe until you see it. It is a town weaving through mountains of trash. The houses are made from metal found in the dump. The people work in the dump looking for recyclable material. Most of the workers are addicted to sniffing glue because it takes their minds off life and gets rid of hunger pains. The children are sick almost year round with respiratory illnesses and parasites. There are two things that always stick out when I go there. They are the smell and the vultures. The skies above the dump are full of vultures, giving the dump an even more ominous look. But there is hope in the dump. There is an amazing school, so good that kids from outside come to the dump to attend. There is a great clinic with wonderful people." (Look for a picture of La Chureca on the bulletin board by the parking lot door.)

Christian Education

Katie's Corner

He is the Way.

Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;

You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

W. H. Auden

Lent is a season in which we become especially aware of our pilgrim status in life. If we make the choice to follow Jesus, to become disciples of the Living God, then we are in for all kinds of adventures. God supplies strength for the journey, and the Holy Spirit whispers in our ears (or, sometimes, thunks us over the head) to supply direction. In Lent, we strive to listen more clearly and we become especially aware of our complete dependence on God.

Perhaps it is a paradox that we also begin to refocus our attention upon the spiritual disciplines. Even as we insist that only by grace can we know our God, we also maintain that there are things we can be doing that will make us better disciples, stronger Christians. These faith practices do not earn us points or win us salvation, but they do remind us that God calls us to participate in the building of God's kingdom, in the joyful living out of love that is our hope. We do have responsibilities and

abilities, and now is the time to face them.

Leaders within the body of Christ are called to equip people of faith for ministry. So, here is the question, how can the Staff at Covenant, the elders and deacons, and those called to teach, equip this body of Christ for this pilgrimage, for this wonderful adventure of loving service and grace-filled moments?

In the articles that follow you will read about some of what we are offering to help you this season. There are books in the library; classes on Sundays; devotions posted on our new and improved web site; and a Spiritual Practices bazaar to give you some ideas, and there is our worship.

What else do you need? What do you need to be equipped to be more faithful? As the leaders of our church pray and work to discern what you need, you can help. Talk to us. Join us in prayer that we might all grow in love and faith and in our abilities to bring hope and healing and God's deep joy into the world.

Here's how you can reach me: katherinekinnison@covenantpcusa.org or 451-6677, ext. 19.

Godspeed on your journey.

Wednesday Nights at Covenant

February 13, 20, 27, March 5, 12

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: Com see our performance of Daniel and the Lion's Den February 10.

Preacher from the Pew for Youth and Adults.

If you need free child care for children under three, please call the church office the Monday before we meet.

Sunday Morning Adult Education, The Forum

Out of Abraham—Judaism, Christianity, Islam Lounge, 9:45 am

As a people of faith, it is our responsibility to engage openly and honestly with Judaism and Islam in order both to understand the integrity and depth of these faiths, and also with the expectation that such an engagement will enrich our own faith and understanding of God.

Feb. 3 Dr. Paul Numrich, Associate Professor and Chair of the Program in World Religions and Inter-Religious Dialogue at the Theological Consortium of Great Columbus. *Scriptural basis for mutual respect between the three faiths. Similarities and differences between the scriptural texts and interpretations. Description of holy books of faiths and their interpretive guidelines. Midrash and legend—outside of scripture.*

Feb. 10 Dr. Norman Hosansky, Coordinator of Interfaith Activities with Congregation Tifereth Israel. *Spiritual Disciplines of the Jewish faith including prayer, worship services, and special ceremonies.*

Feb. 17 Dr. Taymour El-Hosseiny from Omar Ibn El-Khattab Mosque. *Spiritual Disciplines of the Islamic faith including prayer, worship services, and special ceremonies.*

Feb. 24 Dr. Paul Numrich. *Relations among the Abrahamic faiths both historical and contemporary (including Israel/Palestine and America). If time, perhaps Jerusalem—sacred to all three religions.*

In the Chapel

February 10, 17, 24

Join us in the chapel on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 as we learn practical, how-to information about spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, hospitality, keeping the Sabbath, and more. This class is led by Katie Kinnison.

In the Library

The Library is looking beautiful and is so much easier to use. (Thank you Bob Tannehill and friends.) Come, check out some books. We have some wonderful new books and DVDs! on Islam and Judaism, and we have highlighted some special selections for Lent.

**Treasure Finders:
Sunday School Covenant Style**

Treasure Finders: Sunday School Covenant Style

- February 3 Beginning the Season of Lent
- February 10 Jesus' Baptism
- February 17 Temptations
- February 23 Forgiveness

Mardi Gras Pancake Extravaganza is Saturday, Feb. 2, 10:00am to noon, with crafts and fun. All you can eat for \$4; 3 and under free. Flapjacks flipped by Chris Cakes. Bring friends!

TGIGF, or Thank God It's Good Friday, is Friday, March 21 from 9:00 am to noon. We help children understand the events of Holy Week and the amazing hugeness of God's love. We'll eat, play games, sing, make crafts, and have a blast. Registration forms are on-line on our web site and on the Welcome Table at church.

Mark Your Calendars

- 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

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.

Tutoring

Another year of your generosity has brought tears of joy, cards of thanks and verbal appreciation from families of the tutor programs. They gratefully received the gifts and gift cards for food just before Christmas. We heard "It was the best Christmas ever!" and "We had so

little for the children and you made it wonderful!" from our families. We started back tutoring last week seeing very happy and satisfied children. One little fifth grade girl who had been sullen and uninterested in doing school work was a changed person. She was cheerful and willing

to work math problems and read. She had more confidence and pride in her work. Can it be that a show of attention, and answering a child's wishes can be so uplifting that they make her feel that she is as important as other children? Good work, Covenant!

Real Help with Actually Doing Lenten Devotions

Truly preparing for Easter with prayer and other spiritually enriching practices is a great gift – to God, to our community, and to ourselves. But how do we actually proceed? This year we have three ways to help you develop new spiritual habits and to learn some new ideas for your devotional repertoire: a Sunday morning class in the chapel, daily devotions on our website, and a wonderful "come learn new things" Spiritual Practices Bazaar in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Feb. 10 from 9:30 am until 1:00 pm.

Youth

Covenant Café— Saturday, March 1

Covenant Café is:

- an elegant meal served in style by the youth of our church.
- a chance to socialize with your friends from Covenant.
- competitive bidding for items donated for a silent auction.
- an opportunity to help the growing group of young people in our congregation as they work to raise the funds needed for missions and the continuing ministry needs of the youth program.

This is one of the “fun” events at Covenant Presbyterian. Please give some serious thought to the possibility of inviting a friend or neighbor, who may be looking for a new church home, to join your family at a reserved table at the “Covenant Café”. Bring your appetite and your checkbook. As in past years, there will be lively bidding for everything from home baked goods, antiques and handcrafted items to restaurant and hotel accommodations. Tables will be set up in the hall way every Sunday in February to accept your donations. Included with this Communicator is your very own Donation Contract for your convenience. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for youth ten and under and will be sold every Sunday in February between and after services. We’re looking forward to another great evening at the Covenant Café!

Connections and Chi Rho Upcoming Events

Connections is our middle school youth group that meets on Sunday nights 5:30-7:30pm. Chi Rho is the Sr. High group that meets 6:30-8:30pm on Sunday nights except for the first Sunday night of the month which is 6-8:00pm .

February Schedule

- Feb. 3** First Sr. High mission trip meeting at 9:45am between services
- Feb. 3** Souper Bowl Event in the evening beginning at 6:00
- Feb. 10** No youth group due to Youth Retreat
- Feb. 17** Regular youth group night
- Feb. 24** Regular youth group night
- March 1** Covenant Café

Lenten Breakfast

Come to the CPW All-church Lenten Breakfast to celebrate the beginning of Lent! Eunice Lydia circle will host the Breakfast on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 9:30 am. The featured speaker will be Judy Lee, talking about her trip to Palestine and Israel. Communion will be served by the Reverend Tracy Keenan. Cost is \$6. RSVP to Betty Rupp 451-7820, Joan Hamilton 326-0135 or the office.

Our Lenten Journey: Getting Ready for Easter

Saturday, Feb. 2, 10:00am-Noon: Mardi Gras Pancake Extravaganza
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7:00 pm: Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, Feb. 6 -Easter, March 23: Lenten Devotions on the Web
Sundays Feb. 10 -March 16: Spiritual Practices 101 in the chapel
Sunday, Feb. 10, 9:30am -1:00pm: Spiritual Practices Bazaar, Fellowship Hall
Thursday, March 20, 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Service
Good Friday, March 21, 9am -Noon: TGIGF (Thank God It’s Good Friday, for children)
Good Friday, March 21, 6- 7:00pm: Dinner and Service
See our weekly bulletins and the website for more details and check our Church library for resources and additional information.

Thank You from Youth Missionaries

Thank you to all who have supported the youth program’s fundraisers to date by purchasing sub sandwiches and/or Honey Baked Hams. We are very grateful and look forward to a successful Covenant Café this March with your support once again! See blurb on the Café for more information on how you can help!

Souper Bowl Caring Event, Feb. 3

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat” is inspiring a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world. The youth of Covenant Presbyterian will be doing a special collection at all three services on Sunday, Feb. 3 to raise funds to be donated directly to our local food bank. Please participate through a donation at one of the services. Just note “Souper Bowl” in your check memo. Thank you in advance for your participation in a national event helping local food banks.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 6th

7:00 pm

“Create in us a clean heart, O God.”

Deacons' Minutes

The Covenant Presbyterian Board of Deacons met on Dec. 11, 2007, for its annual year-end meeting and Christmas potluck.

Rev. Jim Mehler led the group in prayer before the dinner, with Moderator Linda Van Aman later calling the meeting to order.

Linda gave a recap of the presentation she made at the Session meeting the night before: In 2007, Covenant's Board of Deacons made and distributed almost 250 bags of toiletries to the Open Shelter; 57 units of blood were collected at two drives, exceeding the goal each time; there were more than 50 prayer requests to Prayer Chain; seven meals were provided to families; there were six memorial receptions which included almost 400 guests; flowers from 30 services were delivered to shut-ins; CROP Walk raised \$2,515 in October; 23 families were helped by Adopt-A-Family; CARES organized rides to church services for 165 people, with another 30 taken to doctor appointments and 13 others to various appointments and engagements; Communion was prepared for each monthly service and several special services; approximately 110 families attended Meet Your Deacon Sunday; the group also sponsored Lemonade Sundays, provided greeters and weekly collected and delivered two or three bags of clothing to missions.

Among the innovations, Jim Mehler is preparing a Deacons Prayer Book; Parking Lot Assistants were added at the North entrance; a Caregivers luncheon was held; a new Outreach Mini-grant policy was initiated; donations were shifted to COMPASS, which now handles all outside emergency grants from Deacons; 11 emergency grants were given to people in the community and one to a Covenant members; the Older Adults luncheon was revived after a respite and was held for Covenant members over the age of 80; mini-grants or funding were authorized for Bev Schmidt and Janet Muench to attend an older-adults meeting, to Geoff Stetson ministering in Nicaragua, a swimming program at a middle school, to support Jason Rea's education,

and a forum was sponsored with a speaker from Northwest Counseling.

The current Deacons then introduced themselves and what their job is, before the incoming Deacons were introduced. Linda then passed the gavel to 2008 Moderator Deb Marsh, who presented a gift of thanks to Linda.

After the previous meeting's minutes were passed unanimously, Rusty Miller gave devotions, reading an excerpt from "The Gift of the Magi" and "The Legend of the Holly.

Jim Mehler provided the staff report, including dates for the Covenant Cafe on March 1 and a Mardi Gras party to be held on Feb. 2 in advance of Lent.

Linda received a request from Bethlehem on Broad Street to help support the 30 senior citizens in their program. The Deacons voted unanimously to provide \$20 grocery gift cards to the group, which also hosts a large meal on Christmas Day at which it hands out the cards.

Sue Campbell reported through Linda Van Aman that 17 people attended a meeting of caregivers and care receivers, and that all in attendance were in favor of forming a support group for those giving or receiving care.

Youth Deacons Julie Doub and Andy McGeoch reported that the holiday ham sale is continuing, that the youth are going caroling before the holidays and that the basketball team will begin play in January.

After Linda told the board about the Session meeting the night before, Colleen Davis reported she had helped organize 120 toiletries kits for the Open Shelter, then did another 110 and now has more than 30 ready to go again.

Cathy Levy and Jay McLean then reported on Adopt-A-Family, and discussed soliciting the Deacons board for help in organizing the meeting with families at a South side church the following weekend.

Jim Mehler closed the meeting with prayer.

'Summer is acumen in'

Join the Merry-makers and Friends for a free 60 minute concert on Sunday March 30 at 3pm in Covenant's sanctuary. This year's annual concert includes lively and fun Renaissance and Medieval music from England. Nancy Davidson, Linda Gabel, Tom Billman, George Richards, and Scott Henning are adding their voices. The Merry-maker recorders are also joined by a string quartet, and Weldon will be adding keyboard interest on the harpsichord. Come hear some FUN music, and make sure to attend the reception in the Lounge following the concert.

Worship in February

Feb. 3 Communion -Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sermon: Rudy Smith, preaching
Choral Music: 8:30 *Panis Angelicus* César Franck
Nancy Davidson, Soloist; Early Birds
11:00 *Sanctus* Charles Gounod
Scott Henning, Soloist; Chancel Choir
Instrumental: *Suite Antique* John Rutter
Rodolfo Vazquez, Flute

Feb. 10 First Sunday of Lent

Scripture: OT Lesson: Genesis 2:15-21
NT Lesson: Romans 5:12-19
Sermon: *An Alignment*, Jim Mehler, preaching
Choral Music 8:30 *I Will Make You Fishers of Men* Dave & Jean Perry
Early Birds
11:00 *Walkin' Through the Wilderness* Nylea Butler-Moore
Chancel Choir & Praise B

Feb. 17 Second Sunday of Lent

Scripture: OT Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a
NT Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
Sermon: *Law and Order*, Tracy Keenan, preaching
Choral Music: 8:30 *There's a Light in the World* Susanne Bagenfelt
Early Birds
11:00 *God So Loved the World* John Stainer
Chancel Choir
Instrumental: *Be Thou My Vision* Irish Melody, Arranged by Julie Stitt
My Jesus, I Love Thee Adoniram Gordon, Arr. Anna Page
Campanile Bell Choir

Feb. 24 Third Sunday of Lent

Scripture: OT Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7
NT Lesson: Romans 5:1-11
Sermon: *Waiting for the Water*, Tracy Keenan, preaching
Choral Music: 8:30 *Living Water* Emily Crocker
Early Birds
11:00 *Out of the Deep* (Psalm 130 from *Requiem*) John Rutter
Chancel Choir

Worship With A Difference

On Sunday, Feb. 3 at 6:00 pm, you are invite to “come and worship.” Yes, it’s Super Bowl Sunday, but it’s also SOUPER Bowl Sunday! We will join with people of faith across the country in seeking to “take a bite” out of hunger. Bring a non-perishable food item as a donation to our SOS Food Pantry. Also, you are invited to bring a dollar or two to drop into Soup Kettles placed around the sanctuary as an offering to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank as they seek to replenish their shelves following the holidays.

In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the SOUPER Bowl of Caring for people in need served through food pantries, soup kitchens, and community hunger programs. In 2007, 14,000 groups participated raising over \$8 million.

This year, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join people around the US as they demonstrate God’s love by loving their neighbors through the SOUPER Bowl of Caring. It’s a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will.

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.” *Souper Bowl of Caring Founding Prayer*



Weldon Adams in Recital

On Tuesday, Feb. 12, Weldon Adams will play a noon recital at First Congregational Church. The church is located next to the Columbus Museum of Art at 444 East Broad Street. There is a parking lot just behind the church. The recital program is one-half hour long and consists of *Sonata XII* by Josef Rheinberger and *Concert Variations on the Austrian Hymn* by John Knowles Paine. Both composers were born in 1839 and died in the early 1900's. First Congregational Church is a great building architecturally and houses two magnificent organs, a recently restored Kimball from 1939 of four manuals and a 1972 von Beckerath tracker of three manuals. Weldon will be performing on the Kimball, which is located in the Chancel. There is no charge to attend this program. A lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall of the church. More information can be obtained by calling First Congregational Church at 228-1751 or by visiting their web site.

Combined Choirs in Concert for Lent

The Chancel Choirs of Northwest Christian Church and Covenant Presbyterian Church will combine to present *Requiem* by John Rutter on Feb. 24, at 3:00 in the afternoon. The Rutter *Requiem* includes texts derived from the traditional Latin requiem, the Anglican Book of Common Prayer and the Psalms. It is scored for organ, cello, harp, flute, percussion, soprano solo and chorus. Even though the texts deal with death and loss there is a prevailing mood of hope and confidence in the life to come expressed through beautiful music. The choirs will be directed by Al Adcock, Director of Music at Northwest Christian. The soprano soloist will be Cynthia Adcock, one of the co-pastors of Northwest Christian. Weldon Adams will be the organist. Northwest Christian has combined with Covenant's choir on other occasions, but always at Covenant. Now, since that church has a new-to-them organ the concert will be held there. The church is located at 1340 Fishinger Rd. For more information you may call the church at 457-6290. There is ample parking at either end of the church.

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 Presbyterian Church for over forty years and taught at the Capital University Law School. Her faith was service oriented and socially active, and her leadership at Covenant Presbyterian Church was a gift of intellect, passion, and strength. She left a substantial bequest to Covenant Presbyterian Church, 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 of Covenant Presbyterian Church each year. The person chosen should be pursuing a college or graduate degree in music or theology, a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church or associated closely to this church in some manner, and demonstrate a commitment to excellence in their vocation. Also considered are overall GPA, written recommendations, and financial need. The candidate must be enrolled in the institution of higher learning to which the scholarship gift will be directed.

For more information and a scholarship application form, please contact Ingrid Brooker at the church office 451-6677. Deadline for applications is March 1.

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 \$26.30 per member, for a total payment due of \$17,358. This figure is based upon our church membership roll as of Dec. 31, 2006. Please consider paying your fair share. An envelope is enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience.

Thank You

The family of Evie Long wants to thank the Covenant Family for their love and support to us in our time of grief. You were a great comfort to us and made the celebration of Evie Long's life so special.

Other News

Food & Faith: Having Fun and Eating Locally

On Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008, take a mid-winter break to the Olde Worthington Farmers' Market, followed by brunch at the Northstar Café. The church van will depart from Covenant at 11:00 am to travel to Worthington where the market is held in the Griswold Senior Center, 777 High Street (adjacent to the Worthington Presbyterian Church). If you don't have time for the market, join the group for brunch at 1:00 pm at Northstar Café, 4241 North High Street, Clintonville. The visits to the market and the café will give you an opportunity to see how eating locally is possible even in the winter months. This activity is co-sponsored by the Adult Learning Commission and the Justice and Peace Ministry Team. Contact Katie Kinnison's e-mail katherinekinnison@covenantpcusa.org or phone 451-6677; Susan Imel, e-mail imel.1@osu.edu or phone 262-7444.

If you care about what Covenant is doing...

Leadership Retreat 2008

"Creating a Three Year Rolling Strategic Plan"

Or "Let's Get Where We're Going!"

Our annual Leadership Retreat at Covenant is on Saturday, Feb. 23, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. Brunch included. All elders and deacons are specifically invited, and it is open to any interested members! We will look at the First Year Strategic Plan approved by session in Nov. 2007, and then formulate creative, concrete, and faithful missional objectives for the next three years. Covenant is gaining traction, good things are happening, and we want to be sure to steer in the direction God is calling us. A three-year rolling plan will help us cast the vision and follow through on our ideas. Put the date on your calendar, call the church office and let Ingrid know you are coming, and then come and enjoy some energizing work!

Creative Felting Class

Covenant Crafters and Friends will meet Monday, Feb. 4 at 7:00 pm in Room 121 for The Art of Felting with Charlotte Sharpe. She has made beautiful purses and hats and is a proven expert in the art of felting wool. She will cover the "how to" process, tips, short cuts and a Q.&A. session. If you wish to begin a project, bring a pattern and your knitting gear. Charlotte will get you underway. If you want to do a quick project without knitting, Nancy Cowman and Gail Griffin will share a short-cut to a felted product. If you are curious about the felting process and not ready to start a project, come see what the process is all about. If you want to spend an evening of quality time with quality people, join us.

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 those services because they are serving their purposes well. However, we would like to explore an alternative 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, pop/rock/alternative music, and story. We are becoming very intentional about meeting the needs of those 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 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:

5:30 *Connections* meets on Lower Level

6:00 Worship

6:45 Fellowship time and sandwich-making for the homeless

6:30 Chi Rho and Adult Bible Study

Child Care will be available if needed.

Tips for being “Green”



Greenie and the Justice and Peace Ministry Team, in our effort to uphold our Commitment to Peacemaking and to protect the environment, have suggestions for reusing every day items and making better use of things we normally use. Plastic can be very re-useful!

- Make a mini-greenhouse. Use a plastic deli container. Punch holes in the bottom, fill with dirt, plant the seeds and water. Set it on a tray and close the cover until the plants emerge and are ready to transplant.
- Fill empty plastic bottles (such as mouthwash bottles) with water and freeze to use in coolers.
- Use empty yogurt, dip or cream-cheese containers to hold individual portions of food.
- Buy a lunch bag (or lunch box) instead of using a paper bag.
- Bring Tupperware when going out to dinner for your leftovers or use for packing your lunch (cookies and chips won't get crushed).

The Permanent Funds Ministry: New Structure - New Name

Covenant's Endowment Fund has been restructured by Session and is now called the Permanent Funds Ministry. The new structure is easier to understand, more definitive, and retains all the safeguards of the previous structure. Why is a Permanent Funds Ministry important to Covenant and to you? Right at the top of the list is the acknowledgment that everything we have is a gift from God and what we do with God's gifts reflects how we feel about them. The Permanent Funds Ministry deals with gifts of money given to Covenant to help the church to do God's work. Bequests are placed in one of the funds maintained by the Ministry and invested so that returns can increase the value of each fund. Each year a portion of these funds is used to assist current ministries or assist in the startup of new ministries. The rest of each fund is kept in perpetuity to conform to the wishes of its donors and to assure that Covenant will continue to be able to do God's work. Are you a part of this legacy? Participating in this ministry is a way for you to have a part in the life of Covenant for years to come. Watch for more detailed information on the Permanent Funds Ministry in future issues of *Your Communicator*.

Scotland in June—Final Call Join Tracy Keenan and other Covenant Presbyterian friends on a trip to Scotland June 27- July 5. The trip starts in London. Then motorcoach through Northern England to Edinburgh, Scotland and visit Presbyterian sites of John Knox's home and museum, St. Giles Cathedral and Haddington. On to St. Andrews and the Scottish Highlands. Then visit the islands of Skye, Mull and Iona in Oban overlooking the ocean. Finish the tour in Glasgow and fly home. Included is a professional tour director, local guides, sightseeing, all breakfasts and four dinners. There is ample free time, and optional nights may be added in London, before the tour begins. Informational meetings will be on Feb 3, after the 11:00 service, in the lounge and on Feb 10 at 9:30am in the Room 120. Refreshments will be provided. Call Charlotte Rodenfels at 404-7235 or email char@travelxperts.com. Info is also available on the table in the hallway.

Primetimers' Potluck at Church at 6:00 PM on Friday, Feb. 29 in the Lounge. As always, bring food to share, your own place setting; drinks will be provided. Bill Baskwell, an Upper Arlington photographer and worldwide traveler, will entertain with the subject

of “Our Beautiful World.” All are welcome, bring a friend, ask a new member or a visitor to come along for an evening of fellowship. Remember to think green and carpool if possible. Questions? Call Peggy Hicks at 457-6582.

Peanut Brittle Report It was another successful year for peanut brittle: net profit was \$4,316.88. WOW! That sets a record. It wouldn't have happened without many Covenant members helping. We cooked in 20 sessions, with usually eight people each session. Of course we couldn't have made it without the donations of sugar and margarine from many others. And also very important are the plastic and metal coffee cans. Keep them coming to the church kitchen all year round; we'll need them next fall. Remember that all money goes to CPW's mission projects, near and far.

Presbytery of Scioto Valley Newsletter Available On-Line Rev. Timothy Luoma, pastor at Gallipolis First, is the new editor of the Presbytery on-line newsletter. It is published weekly, and anyone may subscribe. Go to www.psvonline.org and click on "newsletter" to read the latest newsletter.

Christmas Joy Offering

The amount contributed during this season of sharing was \$1,790. Last year it was \$2,166 which was unusually high. Our records going back to 1987 also show that the most received was \$2,573.80 in 1998. Other times when it was more were 1997 (\$1,972.00); 2000 (\$1,990.20); and 2002 (\$2,083.25). So, 2007 was relatively good. The total received from all PC(USA) churches is divided equally and the Board of Pensions uses its half to assist active and retired church workers who have financial difficulties. The other 50 percent helps our six racial ethnic schools and colleges that are open to qualified students regardless of race. One of those is Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska. It is relatively close to Juneau where Bob Whitford, one of our Mission co-workers, serves. We know all recipients are grateful and extend our thanks to you for contributing.

For the March 2008 Issue

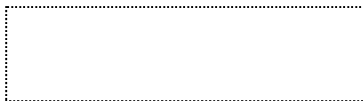
Information for the March issue should be emailed by Monday Feb. 11, to JP, Communications Administrator: joanpogalies@covenantpcusa.org
Include all contact information and what, when, who, where, how and why.

The March 2008 *Communicator* will be assembled for mailing on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. To help, call the church office at 614-451-6677.

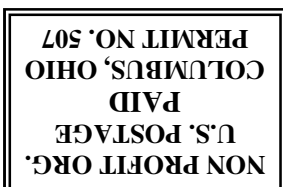
Pastoral Leadership Team

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

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As bulk mail, the *Communicator* is not forwarded and
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