

Your *Communicator*

March 2008

“O God, thy sea is so great and my boat is so small.”

-Author unknown

We talk about prayer a lot. “I’ll keep you in my prayers,” we say. But what do we really mean? What actually IS prayer? When I was a teenager, I thought that prayer was simply talking to God. I would pour out my heart in a kind of monologue and have a feeling that God understood.

Later, someone pointed out that a one-way conversation with God did not allow for much give and take. It was a one-sided relationship. A relationship based on such a narcissistic foundation was not really a relationship at all. So I started making room in my prayer for silence, for listening. Not that God would necessarily speak in audible syllables, but that I might appreciate God’s Otherness. God was not merely a repository for all my thoughts and feelings. God was Presence, Power, a source of Wisdom beyond my limits.

And yet... the words, “I’ll keep you in my prayers” brought to mind the childhood bedtime ritual of “God bless-ing” a long list of folks by name. What did it mean to pray for someone, to lift them up in prayer? Are we calling God’s attention to someone God might otherwise overlook? Are we doing some necessary thing that makes God’s power efficacious? Those concepts don’t seem to take into consideration God’s wholeness or holiness. They seem to render God a “god-with-a-small-g”...temperamental, distracted, limited... and that’s not who God is.

As you probably know, I have spent the last month recovering from major surgery. I have been the beneficiary of the prayers of quite a few folks. And here is what I have discovered: Of course, I still had pain and weakness and setbacks and so forth. But I also sensed a peace and sustenance despite all of those things. Being away from

my normal responsibilities, disconnected from all of the usual demands on my time, I felt at times as though I were adrift on a vast sea in a tiny wooden boat. Sometimes that was as lulling as being rocked gently, but other times, it was disorienting, and I felt lost. Then I realized that the prayers of others were functioning like that small wooden boat of my mental image. They were holding me up as I drifted through that inevitable ocean.

Of course, in the scale of human experience, my surgery and recovery were not at any extreme. They were not life-threatening or monumental. They were only a temporary taste to remind me of my human fragility and mortality. But it is precisely there, in the realization that the sea is so vast and our boat is so small, that we can experience the trust that defies all circumstance.

I do not pretend to understand exactly how prayer works. But I believe that when we consciously make ourselves aware of the presence of God and lift up another person and their situation to that power, we are participating, contributing, so to speak, in the work of the Spirit. We are not just thrusting it all into God’s lap and dusting off our hands. That small wooden boat is the culmination of God’s power being manifest through the caring hearts of the faithful.

The celebration of Jesus’ resurrection has fresh meaning for me this year. I pray that it might for you, too.

Grace and peace,

Tracy



Planning for a Good End

During the next semester of Wednesday Night seminars at 6:45pm, the Older Adult Ministry will be presenting a six-week series on “end of life preparations.”

Whether or not you care to think about your “end,” this series of workshops will help you, and those for whom you care, make important decisions about “affairs” after death.

The reality of death is made far more difficult by having to decide, even in the midst of loss and pain, about possessions, business, wills, bills, insurance.

It is a blessing for survivors who can say, “it was all worked out, clear records were left, and it was made clear to us how much we were loved”.

“Planning for a Good End” is a series of workshops to help people of all ages understand and develop resources for the practical and per-

sonal preparations for their own care and for the support of their surviving family. Those who might need these resources and need to make plans are seniors, young families, sandwich generations and singles.

The content of these workshops is “practical.” It will focus on making choices, keeping records, communicating decisions, and providing the gift of preparation to those whose responsibility it will be to help plan and administer loved one’s affairs.

March 26 Advance Directives- Wills, Living Wills, Power of Attorney Alan Davidson has been a member of Covenant since 1981. He graduated from Penn State and Harvard Law School and is a licensed lawyer. His experience includes 40 years in investment and trust banking with Mellon and National City Banks. Now he is the

Investment Compliance Manager for the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System.

April 2 Charitable Giving – Leaving A Legacy

April 9 Residences and Resources

April 16 Talking With Your Dr.

April 23 Hospice & Palliative Care

April 30 Ethical Wills & Talking With Your Family

During the six weeks we will be providing hand-outs to cover other areas of concern such as *Planning Funerals and Memorials – With the Church and the Funeral Home.*

Reservations for the workshops are not necessary. If you would like to join others for a delicious meal from Mary’s Catering at 6:00, you may sign up via the registration forms in the pews or by calling the church office at 451-6677.

If you have questions or would like more information about these workshops, contact Janet Muench 771-9295 or Jim Mehler.

Special Senior Event – the Older Adult Ministry

A free educational conference on older adult issues will take place on Tuesday, March 11 from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Sponsored by Northwest Counseling Services and the Rotary Club of Upper Arlington, the event will include continental breakfast, resource displays, seminars about anxiety and depression in older adults and about Franklin County’s Direct Debit Program for property taxes, and will include box lunches.

Speakers will be Dr. Christopher Blank, psychiatrist, and Franklin County Treasurer, Ed Leonard.

Resource displays will include local programs and businesses aimed at older adults including health care, assisted living and housing options. The program will take place at First Community Church, north campus, 3777 Dublin Rd., just north of Fishinger Rd. It is well-suited for older adults, family caregivers and professionals. To reserve space call

Presbytery Spring Fest

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

Covenant’s Katie Kinnison is one of the afternoon workshop presenters. Her workshop is “Using the Bible in a World Where No One Knows It,” and will explore: Are our scriptures truly useful in explaining who God is and who we are called to be in today’s culture? How can we become people who are well able to use God’s Word to express God’s love to our neighbors? For information call Jeannie Harsh, Presbytery Office, 847-0565 or email Jeannie@psvonline.org.

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.)

Debt Retirement Update

Good news! We are at 80 percent of our goal to retire out HVAC debt. There are members still pledging and giving cash and we thank them for still considering this important church initiative. It is not too late to contribute for those who have been considering doing so. This would greatly help our next year's budgeting.

You've Got Mail!

On occasion, the church sends out emails to our members notifying them of upcoming events or sends out reminder notices. We have email addresses for a majority of you, but not for all. We're asking you to email us your email address so that we can update our records and get you on our email list. Your email address will not be published in our church directory; it will only be used to communicate church information to you. Please send your email address to ingridbrooker@covenantpcusa.org. Thanks!

Christian Education

Katie's Corner

How do we put our lives with God into words, mere words? It is true what people say: we should walk the walk, and not simply talk the talk. We should live out what we believe so that people can see who we are and what commitments we have by observing the things we do. Isn't that what the people of Israel were called to do, with all the requirements of diet and social justice and ritual? People could see that they were different.

Yes, this is true, but it is not the only truth. The people of Israel were also called to tell stories and to speak to one another of the covenant they had made with the Living God. Listen to the words of Deuteronomy: "Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,

when you lie down and when you rise." Why do you think they wrote so much down? Why tell the story of the Exodus again and again and again?

If we are to honor Jesus's Great Commission and go into the world and make disciples – people who are ready to learn what it is to love and to follow the Risen Lord --, we are going to need to use our words. We must learn to speak our faith, to share the amazing gifts we have been given by telling stories and describing experiences. We need to speak the truth of our lives with great love so that our God will be known, so that people will be tempted to taste and see that the Lord is good.

We are heading to Easter, to that glorious tale of resurrection and of the newness of life. Are you ready to tell the story?

“Sharing the Good News of Your Life: Telling the Gospel in Your Own Words”

A workshop on speaking the reality of God in our lives will be held Saturday, March 29 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Lounge. The cost is \$5 and includes lunch. For more information, pick up a brochure on The Welcome Table or visit our website: www.covenantpcusa.org. To register, call the church office at 451-6677 or e-mail Katie Kinnison at katherinekinnison@covenantpcusa.org

Our Lenten Journey: Getting Ready for Easter

Through Easter, March 23: Lenten Devotions on the Web
Sundays through March 16: Spiritual Practices 101, Chapel
Thursday, March 20, 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Service
Good Friday, March 21, 9am -Noon: TGIGF (See below)
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 information.

Women's Theology

This book discussion group meets the 1st and 3rd Friday mornings of each month and we're getting ready to choose the next book. For more information, call Katie Kinnison or Susan Imel.

TGIGF

Thank God It's Good Friday, a program about Holy Week for children three years old through 5th grade, will be Friday, March 21 from 10:00am-12:30pm. Join us for stories, crafts, games, good food and lot of fun as we celebrate Holy week and God's amazing, awesomely

abundant love for us. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend and share the Good News! It can be hard to understand how we could ever call this Friday "good" because what Jesus endured during this Holy Week was so horrible. Let us help by telling the story and answering the

children's questions. We want them to know, above all else, that nothing, not even death, can stop God's love. The program includes lunch and is only \$3 per child. Registration forms can be found on the church's website and on the Welcome Table at church.

Sunday Morning Christian Education The Forums in the Lounge

- March 2, 9 The Trinity
- March 16 Oh, the Possibilities: Brainstorming New Learning Opportunities
- March 23 Easter Sunday: No Christian Ed Hour
- March 30 Amazing Grace: Hymns that changed the world (Weldon Adams)

In the Chapel

- March 2, 9, 16 Spiritual Disciplines Continues
- March 23 Easter Sunday: No Christian Ed Hour

Mark Your Calendars

- 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.

Treasure Finders: Sunday School Covenant Style

Treasure Finders: What Our Children Are Learning

March 2 Prayer

March 9 Jesus Has Supper with His Disciples

March 16 Palm Sunday

March 23 Easter Sunday: No Christian Education Hour

March 30 “Jesus is Light” in Fellowship Hall part of The Playground of the Bible Series: “Playing our Way into Knowing”

April 6 The Walk to Emmaus

Food & Faith: March 9

Join us on Sunday, March 9 a little after noon for a lovely lunch and brief discussion of how we live out our faith in choices we make about food. After we eat, we'll adjourn into the kitchen where one of our Covenant cooks will lead us in preparing dinner to take home for that evening. Bring your Tupperware and appetite to church on March 9. To register, call the church office at 451-6677 or e-mail Katie Kinnison at katherinekinnison@covenantpcusa.org.

Amazing Grace: An Amazing Movie

Join us Saturday, March 8 and Saturday, March 15 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm for a couple of grace-filled nights at the movies. We'll watch half the movie each night, have some conversation, and, definitely eat some popcorn. “Amazing Grace” is about William Wilberforce's fight to have slavery abolished in England. It is a story of great faith and passion, and it is extremely engaging. For more information, please call or e-mail Katie Kinnison.

Infant/Child CPR in the Lounge

Saturday, March 8 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Taught by Bob Tullett. Learn the correct way to provide CPR to infants and children, and be ready to save a life. This class is open to young parents, teens and adults who babysit, and to grandparents. Childcare will be provided. Register by calling the church, e-mailing Katie Kinnison, or signing up on the nursery bulletin board.

Youth

March Calendar:

- Mar 1 Covenant Café (see info to the left)
- Mar 2 9:30am Mandatory Sr. High Mission trip mtg
- Mar 2 Connections and Chi Rho (plus Sunday night worship service)
- Mar 4 Church basketball finals (hopefully!)
- Mar 9 Connections and Chi Rho
- Mar 16 Spring Break- NO Connections and Chi Rho
- Mar 23 EASTER- NO Connections or Chi Rho
- Mar 31 Connections and Chi Rho

Connections and Chi Rho in March

Hey everyone! By the time you are reading this the Covenant Café will be coming up within days! Be ready for a great event and don't forget to get involved. Also, March is sort of a crazy month with Spring Break and all. Please pay attention to the March calendar.

Connections is our group for youth in grades 6-8. We meet on Sunday nights from 5:30-7:30, eat pizza, play games, and worship together. Chi Rho is our group for kids in grades 9-12 who meet Sunday nights from 6:30-8:30, play games, worship together, and eat left over pizza. Just kidding, we eat treats. Friends are always welcome to join either group for all the fun!

Check out our newly designed web site at
www.covenantpcusa.org!

Continued on next page

Covenant Café— Saturday, March 1—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 serious thought to 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 hand-crafted items to restaurant and hotel accommodations. Tables will be set up in the hall way every Sunday in February to accept your donations. 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!

Youth Honey Baked Ham Sale

If you plan to buy a Honey Baked Ham product this Easter, avoid the long lines and make your purchase from the Youth Program. Visit our table in the hallway after worship services on March 2, 9 and 16, and place your order with one of the youth, or fill in the order form provided below and return it to the church office with your check made payable to *Covenant Presbyterian Church* (with “ham sale” in the memo line) by March 16. Pick up your order in the church kitchen on Saturday, March 22 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. No waiting in lines. Walk in, pick it up and go. A portion of these sales benefits our youth mission efforts.

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 year.

This year the per capita is \$26.30 per member for a total payment of \$17,358. This figure is based upon our church membership roll as of December 31, 2006. We invite you to pay your share of the per capita so that this money does not need to come from the budget. Your contribution will free up funds for other vital church programs that meet the

spiritual needs of our congregation. To date, members have contributed almost \$5,900. Thank you to all of you who have paid your per capita! It’s not too late to pay your share. Per capita envelopes are located at the Welcome Table in the church hallway or by stopping by the church office. *Your Stewardship & Budget Commission*

’Summer is Icumen in’

Join the Merrymakers 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 Merrymaker 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.

Deacons' Minutes

Covenant Presbyterian's Board of Deacons met in regular session on Jan. 22, 2008.

Moderator Deb Marsh called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Jeff Dubois presented devotions based on Old Testament scripture about love overcoming hardships and difficult situations.

After the Super Ministry teams met, the board discussed upcoming changes for greeters. Rev. Jim Mehler reported that March or April is the target date for the Nurture and Outreach Commission to assume responsibility and training for Covenant's greeters. Acknowledgment was made of several members' funerals in recent weeks, and that Hazel Ginther's work coordinating receptions was much appreciated by the families. He also distributed the new "Deacon Prayer Books," which provide prayer guidelines for a variety of life situations.

Jim gave an update on Rev. Tracy's recovery and said that the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is making great progress.

Terri Hayes distributed a calendar for the month of February.

Deb Marsh asked that Deacons contact their zone members to determine if they would be receptive to receiving e-mails instead of mailings to avoid the rising cost of postage and office supplies. She said that Mission and Social Concerns notes the substantial mission work done by Deacons and that it is willing to dis-

cuss working with the board in some of these areas. She also discussed the church's attendance reports which are distributed to Deacons.

Youth Deacons Sam Clark and Kadie Koeneman reported that the youth groups were helping members in a variety of ways and that ministry programs have been extremely rewarding. While mentioning important upcoming dates, including the Covenant Cafe on March 1, they pointed out that school supplies and Valentine surprises are being collected to be sent to college students.

Jay McLean said that the 2007 Covenant drive helped brighten Christmas for 23 families, with more than 500 gifts provided. Total donations amounted to around \$6,000. Gifts for five families were distributed at a holiday party at Southfield Community Baptist Church just before Christmas. Covenant's Deacons will send a check to show our appreciation for their consideration.

Each Deacon is being challenged to come up with an innovative, active, hands-on, direct outreach program which would have as much as \$1,000 in Deacons support. The ideas will be collected at the April Deacons meeting, although it would be appreciated if they are available before that deadline. The timetable then calls for ideas to be presented for discussion and approved by the Outreach Committee and the Deacon Executive Committee in May.

After a reminder that the next Deacons meeting is Feb. 26 at 7 p.m., Jim Mehler closed the meeting with prayer.

Coming Soon - The Stewardship Campaign for 2008-2009

So many exciting things are happening here at Covenant! We are a vibrant community of Christ with inspiring worship, meaningful Christian education, a variety of fellowship programs for people of all ages, and many wonderful service and mission opportunities. All this is made possible through the tithes and gifts from the members and friends of Covenant. Last year we had a wonderfully successful stewardship campaign with the theme "Reaching Forward to What Lies Ahead." The success of the campaign allowed us to enhance our current strengths and prepare for a future of new strengths. But there is much more to be done within the church, our community and around the world. We must build upon our recent success.

Our theme for the 2008-2009 Stewardship campaign, "Extending our Reach," reflects this reality. It challenges us to build on our progress and success, to not only reach forward, but to extend that reach in new ways, in new areas, to new people.

Over the next several months the Giving Committee will encourage a dialogue on how we can *extend* the reach of our ministry and mission. Through Communicator articles, Stewardship minutes, letters to the congregation, informational brochures, Stewardship messages, Session and Commission meeting discussions, and conversations among the congregation, we will encourage prayerful deliberation about how we currently use our tithes and gifts, and how we might *extend our reach* to more effectively spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Look and listen for future Stewardship campaign communications. Please give prayerful consideration to how we at Covenant, both collectively and individually, can be good stewards of the blessings bestowed upon us by God!

Worship & Music in March

MARCH 2 4th Sunday in Lent Communion

Sermon "All God's Children" Tracy Keenan preaching

Scripture Old Testament Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

Choral *My Song Is Love Unknown* Malcolm Archer
Nancy Davidson, Linda Gabel, Scott Henning, Soloists; Paula White, Piano

8:30 *Brother James' Air* (Psalm 23) James Leith Macbeth Bain
Early Birds; Paula White, Piano

11:00 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* St. Columba, Arr. By John Rutter
Chancel Choir; Paula White, Piano

Instrumental *Canon in D* Johannes Pachelbel

To God Be the Glory William H. Doane
Handbell Ensemble

MARCH 9 5th Sunday in Lent

Sermon "These Old Bones" Tracy Keenan preaching

Scripture Old Testament Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14
New Testament Lesson: Romans 8:6-11

Choral *He Is Mine* Swahili song, Arranged by Hal H. Hopson
8:30 Early Birds; 11:00 Chancel Choir

Instrumental *Were You There?* Spiritual, Arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded Hans Leo Hassler, Arranged by Arnold B. Sherman
Campanile Bell Choir

Carillon Edward Elgar
Weldon Adams, Organ

MARCH 16 Passion/Palm Sunday

Sermon "Blessed is the One" Tracy Keenan preaching

Scripture Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
New Testament Lesson: Matthew 21:1-11

Choral *Hosanna, Hosanna!* Joseph M. Martin
8:30 Early Birds; 11:00 Chancel Choir, Violin, Percussion

8:30 *On That Day When He Rode Into Jerusalem* Mary Kay Beal
8:30 Early Birds

11:00 *Hear the Children Sing "Hosanna"* Ruth Elaine Schram
Children of the Church School and Chancel Choir

11:00 *No Stone Gonna Shout for Me* Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir

Instrumental *Christ's Entry into Jerusalem* Stanley E. Saxton
Weldon Adams, Organ

MARCH 20 Maundy Thursday Tenebrae and Communion

Choral	<i>Behold the Lamb of God</i>	Dana Mengel
	<i>Bread, in Mercy Broken</i>	Gary Cornell
	<i>Blessed Jesu, God Incarnate</i>	Gabriel Fauré
	A Gaelic Blessing	John Rutter
Instrumental	<i>Cortege and Litany</i>	Marcel Dupré
	<i>Chorale Prelude on Herzliebster Jesu</i>	Helmut Walcha Weldon Adams, Organ

MARCH 21 Good Friday

Choral	<i>Cantata The Seven Last Words of Christ</i>	Theodore Dubois Chancel Choir and Soloists
Instrumental	<i>Cortège</i>	Theodore Dubois
	<i>In Paradisum</i>	Theodore Dubois Weldon Adams, Organ

MARCH 23 Easter

Sermon	“Easter Finery”	Tracy Keenan preaching
Scripture	New Testament Lesson: Colossians 3:1-11; Matthew 28:1-10	
Choral	<i>God’s Right Hand and Holy Arm</i>	K. Lee Scott
	<i>Jesus Christ, Risen Today</i>	Robert A. Hobby Chancel Choir, Brass Quartet, Campanile Bell Choir
Instrumental	<i>Rigaudon</i>	André Campra Brass Quartet and Organ
	<i>Toccata (Symphony V)</i>	Charles-Marie Widor Weldon Adams, Organ

MARCH 30 2nd Sunday of Easter

Sermon	“Keeping to the Path of Life”	Tracy Keenan preaching
Scripture	Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a, 22-24, 32-33, 36, 38	
Choral	<i>We Have Seen the Lord</i>	Earlene Rentz
	<i>Wake the Jubilation</i>	Rollo Dilworth 8:30 Early Birds; 11:00 Chancel Choir & Praise B
Instrumental		Rodolfo Vazquez, Flute



Other News

Deacon-Sponsored Blood Drive

Monday, March 10, Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Four million people – one patient every two seconds – need blood each year in the U.S. Although the supply of blood decreases in the winter months, the need does not. To meet the requirements of Central Ohio patients the Red Cross needs everyone, from first-time donors to regular donors, to give the gift of life. There are three easy ways to make your appointment for the Blood Drive sponsored by the Board of Deacons:

1. Register at the Blood Drive table in the hallway after worship March 2 and 9.
2. Log on to www.givelife.org to make your appointment (sponsor code “covenant”).
3. Call Dianne Annis at 529-0671 or Lou Ann Doub at 488- 3919 to schedule an appointment.

Remember, a single donation of blood can save the lives of up to three patients. Be a hero. Give the gift of life!

Preacher from the Pew—Wednesday Night Dinners

You are cordially invited to the Preacher for the Pew Series meant to enlighten your Lenten journey. Our distinguished lay preachers are:

March 5 Andrea Eberhard...is a mathematics teacher at Brookhaven High School. She has been a member of Covenant for over 20 years, serving as Deacon and Elder, and has held membership on several Commissions

March 12 Frank Croft...joined Covenant in 1996 and is a current member of Stewardship & Budget Commission and the Giving Committee, and is the Lay Reader Coordinator for Worship & Arts. He is a former Deacon, Elder, Chair of Stewardship & Budget, and member of Properties, Assistant Clerk of Session and was on the Pastor Nominating Committee. Frank is an Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering & Geodetic Science, College of Engineering, at The OSU.

Dinner is at 6:00 pm preceding the service, \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 3-12, \$17 for a family. Children under 3 are free. From 6:30-7:30 pm Kid’s Power Play is held for preschool, elementary and middle school children.

Beautify our Grounds

On March 15 and April 12 help clean up the church property after winter. Leaves need to be raked, beds mulched, plants trimmed, and new plants planted. Bring trowels, shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows to help make our church beautiful. BSA Troops 96 and 295 will begin Saturday, March 15 from 9 am - noon by cleaning the flower beds and mulching. We can then, on Saturday, April 12 from 9 am - noon, use your help to put the polishing touches on the landscaping. Call Jay McLean at 209-7314 or just show up.

Once-a-Month Sunday Night Service Continues March 2 at 6:00pm

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 Ministry 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”



Energy savings can be found in many different places. For instance, beware of “vampire power” drains. Your cell phone charger is still pulling power even when your phone is disconnected. Plug your charger into a power strip, and when not actively charging, turn off the strip. TVs use energy to turn on instantly, rather than warming up so when you’re away for an extended period, consider unplugging it.

Switch to receiving statements,

and newsletters via email, rather than through the mail. You get information in a timely manner, and help reduce waste and lower costs. The Presbytery of Scioto Valley now offers their *Newsletter* as a weekly email. Find it at www.psvonline.org.

Did you know 20% of a typical household’s electricity usage is spent running kitchen appliances?

- Keep your refrigerator/freezer out of direct sunlight or warm air.
- Every 3 months, clean the condenser, coils, fins and evaporator pan.

- Make sure door gaskets are tight.
- If buying a new refrigerator or freezer, buy one labeled Energy Star®.
- When baking, don’t open the oven door to peek. 25% of an oven’s heat can be lost every time the door is opened.
- Use the oven’s self-cleaning features right after cooking, while the oven is still hot.
- Select a “no heat” dry option when using the dishwasher, or open the dishwasher door at the end of the cycle and allow the dishes to air dry.
- Wash only full loads.

The Permanent Funds Ministry: Organization of the Ministry

The Permanent Funds Ministry (PFM) was established by Session in accordance with Covenant’s bylaws and is administered by the Permanent Funds Ministry Committee. Gifts to the PFM are held in trust in specific funds and are invested in income-producing assets. The funds and the distribution of assets from them are held entirely separate from Covenant’s normal operating budget. Donors may stipulate a specific fund for a gift and, if a restricted fund is chosen, may indicate a specific use for the gift.

The four permanent funds currently operating within the PFM are:

1. The Unrestricted Endowment Fund: earnings are spent on special requests approved by Session. The annual spending rate will not exceed 4 percent of the three-year moving average value of the fund.
2. The Restricted Endowment Funds: principal and earnings are spent as directed by the donor.
3. The Capital Facilities Fund: principal and earnings are available to the Properties Commission for special projects that enhance the church’s physical property.
4. The Program, Mission, and Benevolence Fund: principal and earnings are available to support special programs, missions, and benevolence requested by commissions and staff.

Look for information about how/why to give to these permanent funds in future issues of *Your Communicator*.

Gender-specific Jobs To Stop. For many years, the coffee you enjoy drinking between services has been served by the male members of our church under the auspices of the Men’s Club. We are now inviting women to join in this endeavor. A new schedule for the servers will be prepared before the end of March. Male or female, if you want to help at the coffee table, please call the church office or Jay Armstrong, 746-8475, before March 20.

Primetimers’ Potluck at Church at 6:00 PM on Friday, March 28 in the Lounge. As always, bring food to share with each other and your own place setting. Drinks will be provided. Dick Estelle from Friendship Village will provide humor to entertain and brighten our day. 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.

Save the Date! The LIKAY Thai Folk Drama group will perform here on April 18 at 7:30 pm. There may be an opportunity to host one or two of the dancers and the mission partners, Rob Collins and Esther Wakeman. Call Judy Oeder for details at 459-2231!

Weldon Adams in Recital Rescheduled Due to bad weather, Weldon Adams’ Feb. 12 recital was cancelled and rescheduled for Tuesday, March 11 at noon. He will play a free recital at First Congregational Church located next to the Columbus Museum of Art, 444 East Broad St. The recital is one-half hour long and consists of *Sonata XII* by Josef Rheinberger and *Concert Variations on the Austrian Hymn* by John Knowles Paine. First Congregational Church is a great building architecturally and houses two magnificent organs. Weldon will be performing on the Kimball which is located in the Chancel. A lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall of the church. For more information call First Congregational Church at 228-1751.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Many of us are aware that soon after Lent begins we'll be reading and hearing about the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. It began in 1949 in response to the devastation from World War II in a radio broadcast asking listeners to give generously the next day in their churches. It worked! More than 75,000 churches of many denominations responded. Each denomination gives part to Church World Service and decides how the rest will be used. The PC(USA)'s largest portion, 36 percent, is allocated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The remainder is divided equally between the Hunger Program and Self Development of People. For at least the past 10 years about \$20 million has been given by all participating and the past 20 years our denomination receipts have been between \$9 and \$11 million. Covenant's have varied between \$6,696.61 in 1998 and \$3,025.91 in 1982. Last year \$4,026.45 was given, but our best in the 21st century was \$6,340.25 in 2000. Inserts in your bulletin and presentations about the current ways the three areas will be assisted will be presented. May we respond in gratitude for our well-being to help meet the needs of so many who need so much. An offering envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

For the April 2008 Issue

Information for the April issue should be emailed by Monday, March 10, to JP, Communications Administrator: joanpogalies@covenantpcusa.org
Include all contact information and what, when, who, where, how and why.

The April 2008 *Communicator* will be assembled for mailing on Thursday, March 20 at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. To help, call the church office at 614-451-6677.

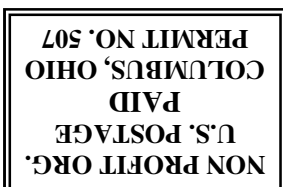
Pastoral Leadership Team

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



Please call the church office with your new address.
As bulk mail, the *Communicator* is not forwarded and
is returned to the church at a cost of 82 cents.



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2070 Ridgely Road, Columbus, OHIO 43221-1999 (614)451-6677 Fax (614)451-1326
www.covenantpcusa.org

