

The Covenant Newsletter



August 2011

Covenant Presbyterian Church

471 Parkway Avenue

Trenton, New Jersey 08618

609.989.8282

Www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org



Minister's Message

Then the Lord said:
I have observed the misery ...
I have heard their cry ...
I know their sufferings ...
I have come down to deliver ...
And to bring them out of the land.

(From Exodus 3: 7,8)

It took Moses forty years to follow up on God's intervention to liberate the people of Israel from Egypt and lead them to the promised land. If Moses had used a GPS programmed on "fastest route," he could have done it in maybe three to four months. Why did it take so long to go through the wilderness? The answer to that, basically, is because the story is about deep, structural change, change that led to fundamental transformation.

We live in a time of great change. We are facing changes in our workplaces, our government, our schools, our hospitals, our cars -- the list goes on. We also experience change in our church at the national, regional and local level.

The PC(USA), our denomination, recently voted to change the Form of Government, click: <http://oga.Pcusa.org/formofgovernment/> together with 15 other amendments to the constitution, click: <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/ga219-voting-tallies-proposed-amendments/>. Among the changes is a change in ordination standards, removing the constitutional requirement that all ministers, elders, and deacons live in "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness."

Regionally, on the steaming hot evening of Wednesday, July 20, our Presbytery of New Brunswick unanimously approved the call of the Rev. Wendy Bailey, click: <http://wendy.thebaileys.name/welcome-2/> to serve as Regional Presbyter of the Presbyteries of New Brunswick and Monmouth. One of the objectives of this new position is to "lead both Presbyteries in a time of missional and structural change." Rev. Bailey will assist us in a process of discernment as to whether to remain two presbyteries or to merge into one.

Covenant continues to discern what God calls us to do with the changed demographics and times (how many of you are reading this on an electronic device, instead of paper?!) We persistently explore other expressions of worship and music. Our session encourages the start of an Hispanic outreach ministry; many leaders are increasingly open to learning how to equip ourselves for the church of the 21st century (six went to the Big Tent recently); and all the while we continue building relationships with sister churches like Beloved Community and Ewing Presbyterian Church. To keep up with everything exciting, new and old, check our website frequently, click: <http://covenantchurchtrenton.org/>

Moses led the people of Israel for forty years, in biblical terms: a long time, because a deep transformation was called for, not a quick fix. If the trip had been too short (are we there yet?), nothing would have changed. Church leaders at the national level as well as in our own church find themselves in a situation of structural change that requires us to be in the wilderness long enough for transformation to take place, notwithstanding the echoes of Exodus 16:2 -- "The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness." The journey requires patience, courage and faith, more than producing concrete answers.

Remembering Exodus 3 quoted above, most importantly it is God who leads the transforming: "Then the Lord said: I have observed ... I have heard ... I know ... I have come down to deliver ... And to bring them out of the land." The biblical witness emphasizes again and again that everything will happen as an act of transformation by the hand of God. May God bless the journey through all levels of change in our times.

Peace

Jan Willem

The Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff



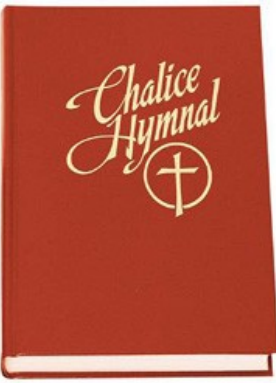
How to Reach the Pastor

If you have a pastoral concern, or want to talk to the pastor, **the Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff**, please call 609.989.8282 or e-mail him at jwvanderwerff@comcast.net (Monday is his day off.)

The Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff will be away through August 15.
In case of a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact:

the Rev. Nancy Schluter

On August 9 through August 11
the Rev. Elizabeth Vandergrift



We're Getting New Chalice Hymnals!

The Worship and Music Commission and the Memorial Committee are in the process of purchasing 80 Chalice hymnals for the sanctuary through our Memorial Fund. If you would like to donate a hymnal in memory of or in honor of a loved one, the cost is only \$20, which includes shipping and handling. Hymnal order forms can be found on the literature tables at the front and rear of the Sanctuary, or you may call Rae at the church office, 609.989.8282 or e-mail her at 471covenantrae@comcast.net for more information or to donate a hymnal (or two or three). A bookplate will be placed in each hymnal indicating the source of the donation.

*I would like to donate _____ Chalice Hymnals @ \$20 per hymnal
of hymnals*

Total Amount enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church

To Be Listed on Bookplate (Please Print)

Given by _____

Circle Your Choice(s)

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

Signature _____

Phone # _____

*Place your order form in the offering plate, drop off at the church office, or mail
to: Covenant Presbyterian Church,
471 Parkway Ave,
Trenton, NJ 08618*



New Regional Presbyter Named

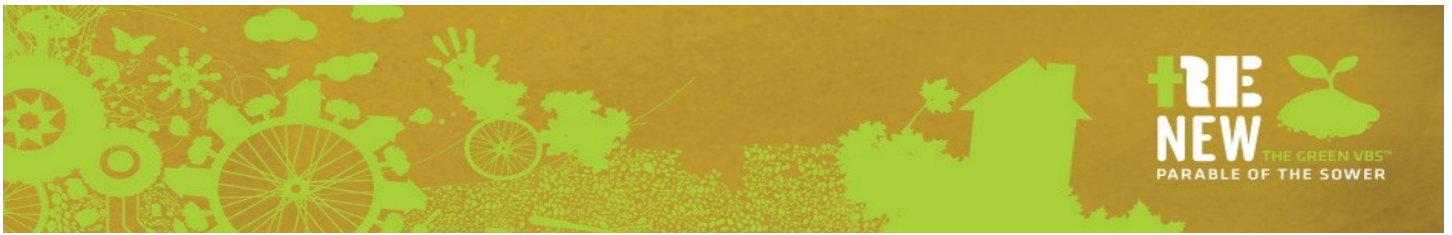
The Rev. Wendy S. Bailey has been chosen by a search committee of the New Brunswick and Monmouth Presbyteries to fill the new position of Regional Presbyter. Instead of two traditional Executive Presbyters, the Regional Presbyter, in the words of the job description, will “lead both Presbyteries in a time of missional and structural change, facilitate cooperative ministries within the Presbyteries and beyond, lead in motivating our Presbyteries as a missional body of Christ while honoring and celebrating the ministries of individual Presbyteries and congregations.”

Wendy was raised in a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church on Long Island, but joined the First Presbyterian Church in Jamestown, New York, soon after her marriage to Dwayne over 30 years ago. The Jamestown church recognized her call to the ministry and took her under care as she finished her bachelor’s degree at the State University of New York at Fredonia and her M.Div. at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

She was ordained in 1987 and served churches in Allen Park and Livonia, Michigan. From 1998 to 2004 she was pastor of the former Westminster Presbyterian Church in Baytown, Texas, now the Faith Presbyterian Church. Since 2004, Wendy has served as Associate General Presbyter of the Presbytery of New Covenant in Texas.

The Baileys have one daughter, Kate, who is a graduate student at the University of North Texas. For enjoyment, Wendy loves to sing, play guitar and piano, ride her motorcycle with Dwayne, converse with friends, connect via Facebook or Skype with friends and relatives, and be involved in local activities such as community theater.

Both Presbyteries unanimously approved the call at special meetings on July 20. Rev. Van der Werff, David Pollison and George Self served as Covenant’s representatives at that meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown. She will begin her call September 11.



ReNew Covenant's 2011 Green Vacation Bible School! Thanks everyone!

In July, Covenant opened its door for our 2011 VBS. Fellowship Hall was filled with the laughter and excitement of children as they followed the daily story of Sam the sower planting his seeds. They learned about the birds of the air, the importance of roots, and good soil. Not only was there a parade of children, the youth did a superb job in giving the teachers a helping hand. Youth, we thank you!

This year's teachers were Tina Lamb, Julie Miner and Jasmine Murray, Rev. Nancy Schluter, and Debbie Peters. Teachers, we applaud you for the fine job you did.

Another round of applause goes out to Alice Wardlow, Betty Newberry and Betsy Myndyllo for making great food, and Justin Young for being the game master (all the kids loved Justin). Jessica Peters, Annemarie Lamb and little Jon did a great job with the musical part of the morning. Jane Politi, thanks for crafts.

We want to thank Cindy Moskow, Jane Schwilk, Carol Stawski, and Mickey Reilly for helping with registration. Our thanks go out to Jewell Hand, Rufus and Harriette Williams, and Joann Trevor for their daily input and help.

Dave Tregurtha, Thanks for making Sam the Sower. He was a great hit.

Thanks to all of you who donated money to help make VBS a huge success.

Mickey Reilly, we thank you for helping to make the mikes work and for cooling us off daily by coming in early and turning on the air conditioners.

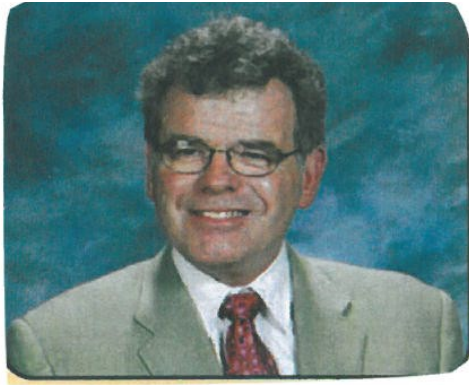
We can't forget Rae for all she did...Thanks Rae!

Rev. Jan Willem we thank you for your daily take on Sam the Sower. Very interesting!

Covenant, you can be proud of yourself again this year. ReNew the Green VBS was a huge success. I thank all of you for your effort and continued support.

Jane Politi Director of Renew 2011 VBS

P.S. This letter would not be complete without thanks to Alice Wardlow for planting her wonderful garden in the Bed of God's Creation.



From our Treasurer

Mid-Year Treasurer's Report

Our weekly offering is doing fine. About two-thirds of the congregation is paid up to date or ahead on pledges as of June 30. As a result, we are only \$44 from the entire church being paid up. What concerns me is our Faith and Growth Fund. We created this fund to raise about \$28,000 that was needed to balance our budget. The Session chose to establish this fund, rather than asking every-

one to raise their pledges, so that individuals who could not afford an increase in their pledges would not be overburdened. To make this idea work, many of us would have to contribute a larger gift than what our weekly pledge is. Right now, this fund is about \$6,300 *behind* the amount needed for a balanced budget. During the second half of the year, we will need to raise more than \$22,000.

Last month I talked about our per capita assessment. Each church has the responsibility for paying \$28 per active (confirmed) member. This payment goes to the support of the General Assembly, the Synod of the North East, and the Presbytery of New Brunswick. If our members do not pay this fee, it becomes an obligation that the church must pay. At present we are \$985 *behind* in our mid-year payment.

As we all know, energy costs keep going up. In fact, they have gone up more than we anticipated. The heater gave us a surprise this past winter, and we had an unusual expense. Therefore, the building and grounds expenses are up beyond the budgeted amount.

The "bottom line" is that the church budget is around \$9,700 short. If everyone paid their per capita assessment, or someone could afford to help out those who cannot pay it, and all pledges and gifts such as the Faith and Growth Fund were paid, Covenant would have a surplus to expand its ministries to the community.

Mickey Reilly, treasurer

The Rev. Thomas Holmes Preaching August 14, 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Thomas Holmes, associate pastoral leader of Beloved Community, will lead worship on Sunday, August 14, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. He has been Rutgers University administrator for 26 years, and holds a Masters in Public Administration from Rutgers-Newark in the School of Public Affairs and Administration, a Masters of Divinity from New Brunswick Seminary and an undergraduate degree from Rutgers College. We look forward to hearing Rev. Holmes' message on August 14!



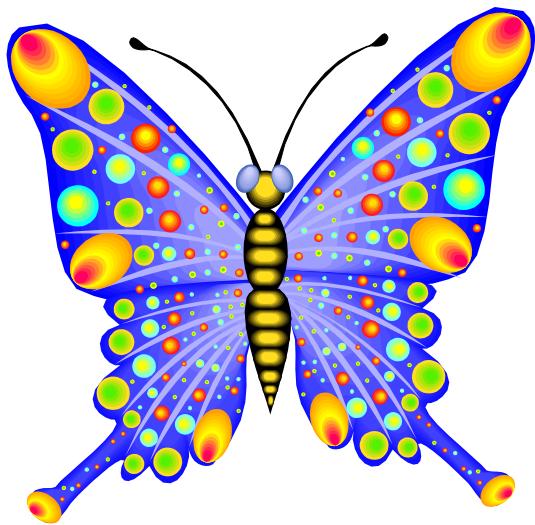
Big Tent Bulletin Board

Please take a moment to look at the Big Tent Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall. Six members of Covenant attended the Big Tent Conference in Indianapolis: Jane Politi, JoAnn Trevor, Alice Wardlow, Harriette and Rufus Williams, and Sharon Young. The bulletin board was prepared by Sharon Young.

Let's Switch!

Next Sunday, July 31, the Rev. Elizabeth Vandergrift of Ewing Presbyterian will preach at Covenant's 10:30 a.m. worship service. There will be no worship service at Ewing.

On Sunday, August 21, the Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff of Covenant Presbyterian will preach at Ewing's 9:30 a.m. worship service. There will be no worship service held at Covenant.



Healing Services

The Healing services will begin again in the fall. We met monthly since last December on a variety of dates, and now seek your comments about a preferred regular time: Sundays after coffee hour, Sunday evenings or an evening during the week (Monday – Thursday).

Please do let one of us know your thoughts!

The service provided a time for quiet meditation, reflection, prayer and anointing with oil. Our souls are often too "busy" to hear the voice of God, and the service is meant to quiet the soul. Committee members are Carol Stawski, Pam Miller, Jane Politi, Jewell Hand, JoAnn Trevor and Rev. Nancy Schluter.



Come Join Us for a FUN Raiser!

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, September 15** in the lounge from 7 to 9 p.m.

We will have a fun evening of Premier Jewelry, shown by consultant Kristine Hood. All funds from this event will go towards our Faith and Growth Fund so **be sure to bring a friend!** Shop early for Christmas! Come and enjoy some refreshments., you might even win a door

prize!

(If you are unable to attend, please see Cindy Moskow for a brochure to place your order. Brochures are also available to share with your friends ahead of time and just bring your orders with you the night of the event.)

Please make this a priority in your busy schedule! We can easily achieve our goal of \$1,000 or more with a great turnout! Thank you for your support.

Sponsored by the Fundraising Committee

Nancy Orhun-Markley & Robert Markley New Home List



As we all know, the Markleys house burned down late last year. They are in their new house but many, many items were destroyed. Below is a partial list of items that the Markleys have placed on their New Home List. They are registered at Target.

Partial List:

10 gallon Rectangular Step Trash Can, Item #002-01-0124	\$119.99
ClosetMaid Broom & Mop Holder, Item #002-11-0114	\$9.99
OXO Egg Slice – White/Black, Item #070-05-0269	\$14.99
Stainless Steel Colander – 5 quart, Item #070-05-2083	\$7.99

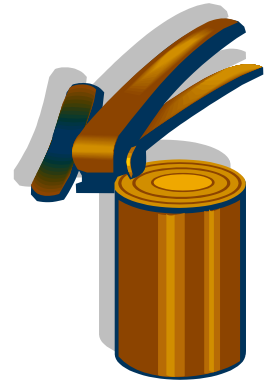
It is not necessary to buy the new home items from Target. If you see the same or similar item in another store feel free to purchase it.

Food for Friends

Sunday, August 28

Our **Food for Friends** collection in August will go to the food pantry at Habitat for Humanity. Don't forget to buy one non-perishable item for the food collection every time you go to the grocery store! If you would prefer to make a monetary gift, write a check to Habitat for Humanity, put it in an envelope marked "Food for Friends," and place it in the collection plate. (Food pantries are always happy to receive money.)

If you will not be in church that Sunday and would like to contribute grocery items, leave your groceries at the church office marked "Food for Friends," and we'll see that they are included in the collection.





Serving at TASK

Thursday, August 25 at 2:45 p.m.

The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen volunteers will be serving dinner on Thursday, August 25.

Our group, which is now four to six people, can be expanded to eight. So if you are interested, please let us know. Young people are also welcome; you must be 13 or older.

We meet in the church parking lot at 2:45 p.m. and carpool from there to the Soup Kitchen and back. We get back

around 5:30. If it would be more convenient for you to drive to TASK and meet us there, you don't have to meet us at church. Just let us know you are coming. You can call the church office or Donna Amick.



A Letter from New Orleans

(Our former youth minister Jessica Jaeger recently received this e-mail from the contractor our mission group worked with in New Orleans in 2009. She'd like to share it with the congregation.)

Hello Jessie: how have you been? Fine I do hope. Did I surprise you, in case you do not remember DC. Well I will never forget you guys for helping me to build the house for Clarise Jones at 4911 Galahad in New Orleans in 2009. For a while I had some really serious issues I had to deal with surrounding building these four houses for people for \$800 - \$ 4,000 dollars each. Only one of these four clients actually paid me in full. What it did was hurt the program because I could not help this really old lady who lives in a shack and is sick. Anyway I will be building my new house soon in the country. I want to put a theatre in the basement but we will see . Tell Amanda and Rachael hello.

Book Study Group of Covenant

Wednesday, September 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Thank you for a great year! We realized we had done quite a variety of books again last year. After brainstorming about next year, we came up with five books, (a) new location(s), and a plan to expand our group.

We want to meet in public places to be in contact with “the world out there.” Who knows, we might include someone in our conversations. We also talked about meeting in individual homes sometimes.

*Our next meeting will be at our usual time,
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.*

*Wednesday, September 14,
Parkway Pizza, 836 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08618.
609.883.0391*

We will invite Ewing Presbyterian Church and Beloved Community. The bestseller “Heaven is for Real” is our first book for the new season.

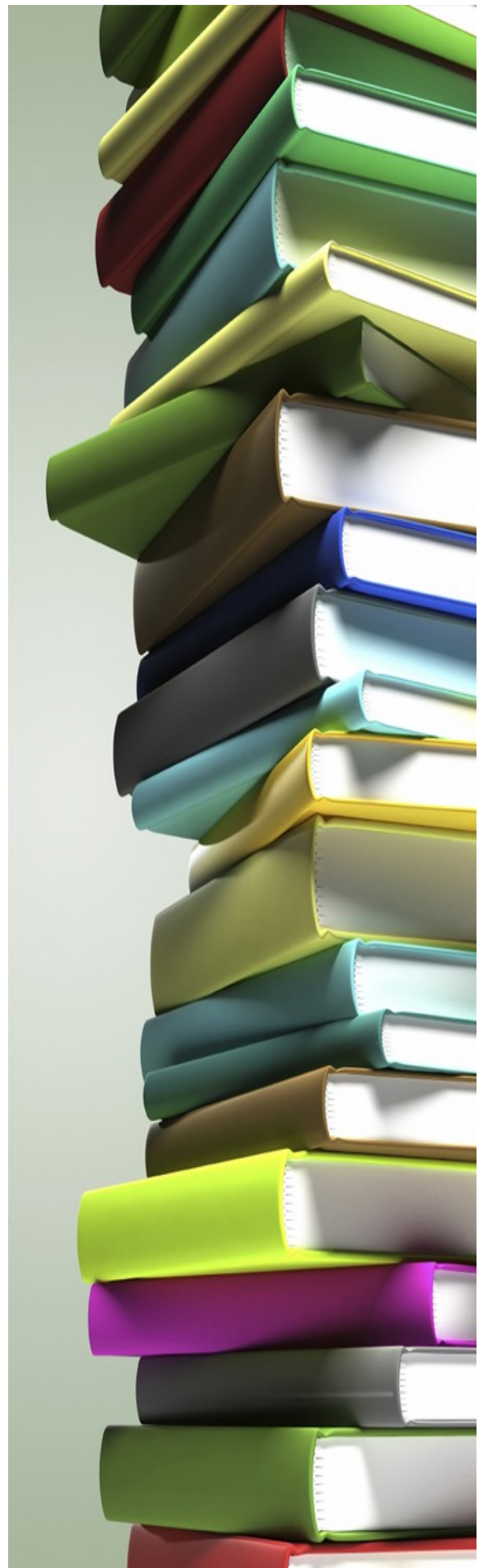
Here are the books we will definitely discuss next year and which you can start reading over the summer:

- 1) Heaven is for Real
by Todd Burpo, September 14
- 2) If the Church were Christian
by Philip Gulley
- 3) Beyond Belief
by Elaine Pagels
- 4) Jesus, Interrupted
by Bart D. Ehrman
- 5) The Help – *February/Black History month*

Other possible future readings:

- Introducing the Quran
by John Kaltner
- The Bible – the Basics
by John Barton
- In the Eye of the Storm
by Gene Robinson
- The Exquisite Risk
by Mark Nepo
- Three Cups of Tea
by Greg Mortenson (Author) and
David Oliver Relin (Author)

Peace, Jan Willem



We Get You to the Church on Time!



Do you want to attend church on Sundays but have no transportation? Please call the church office or the scheduled driver, and arrangements will be made for you to be brought to church and then taken home. Below is the schedule for August and early September van drivers.

August 7	Joyce	September 4	Jeff
August 14	Jeff	September 11	Mickey
August 21	Mickey		
August 28	Dave		



Covenant Online...

If you haven't checked out our website lately, click on www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org to see what you have been missing. Here's a sampling of what you'll find:

- ▶ A photo of our 80-and-over members.
 - ▶ Photos of our March retreat.
 - ▶ Our Ministry of Health, updated each month.
 - ▶ Information about the Spiritual Book Club.
 - ▶ Information about our I.D. Card program.
- ▶ Letters from and news about our missionaries.
 - ▶ Late-breaking church news.
 - ▶ Downloadable copies of various documents and forms.
 - ▶ Photos of Vacation Bible School, mission trips, Tea by the Sea and other church events.
 - ▶ Links to other websites of interest.
 - ▶ Links to several versions of the Bible, the Book of Confessions and The Upper Room.
 - ▶ Prayers and inspirational poems.

Thank you From the Family of Clara Carlese

To our Dear Covenant family,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one who attended Mom's wake, funeral, luncheon, brought a dessert, sent a card, flowers visited, called or helped in any way. We know she would have been so very pleased to know so many people cared and thought so much of her.



We would also like to thank those of you who called, sent a card or visited her during her illnesses and hospital stays.

We would like to extend a very special thanks to those of you who gave of your time and/or talents to make Mom's services and luncheon so beautiful;

The Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff - There are absolutely no words that could adequately thank you for all the support, guidance, understanding, caring, concern, humor and love you gave us during such a difficult time and especially how you were always there for Mom throughout her illnesses. She absolutely adored you and relied on you for that support and guidance. She was most overwhelmed and very appreciative that each time she was hospitalized you were there every day.

The Rev. Nancy Schluter - There are no words to thank you for all your support, love and guidance which have always meant the world to us. You too have always been there for Mom and our family, now and over the years since you came to Covenant. Your caring and concern have meant the world to our family.

Rae Richardson – There are no words that could adequately thank you for all you did, the programs were absolutely beautiful and all the time and effort you put in coordinating everything with the caterer making sure everything was perfect. Your love, support and guidance and love and respect you have for Mom means the world to us.

Hehsun Smith – Thank you for giving of your time and talent to provide the most beautiful music during Mom's funeral service. She always loved the way you played both the organ and piano.

Craig Young - Thank you so much for being at the church setting, cleaning up and just being there overseeing things to ensure everything went smoothly.

Mickey Reilly - Thank you so very much for giving of your time to be at the church for the wake, funeral and luncheon. It gave us great comfort knowing you were there making sure everything in the building ran smoothly.

George McClain - Thank you for giving of your time to be at the church for the wake, funeral and luncheon. It gave everyone who visited the church great comfort knowing you were outside patrolling the grounds, protecting us and our vehicles. And for being there to run the elevator for those who may have needed it.

Virginia Ryan - Our most heartfelt thanks to you for giving of your time to get and coordinate desserts and setting and cleaning up of Fellowship Hall for the luncheon. That was a huge undertaking and we are most grateful to you for taking that burden off our already overloaded shoulders.

(continued on page 14)

Sandy Austin - Our most heartfelt thanks to you for giving of your time and talent agreeing to share your beautiful voice by singing at the funeral service. Mom said from the first time she heard you sing she wanted you to sing at her funeral. We know she was more than pleased. Thank you for your visits, phone calls, love, caring and concern you gave Mom each time she was too ill to come to church or hospitalized. They really meant so much to her and us. And thank you so very much for offering to "just be there" for our family during our difficult time.

David Tregurtha - Our most heartfelt thanks to you for giving of your time and talent agreeing to share your beautiful voice by singing at the funeral service. Mom said from the first time she heard you sing she knew she wanted you to sing "Amazing Grace" at her funeral. We are so grateful and know she was more than pleased. She also enjoyed the time she spent with you and Ann doing newsletters and envelopes.

The Covenant Presbyterian Church family has and will always hold a very special place in our hearts.

In God's Love, Peace and Grace,

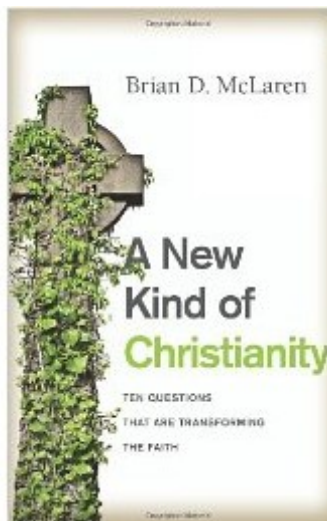
Clara Carlese's daughters, Beatrice, Laura, Susan, Clara Mae, Isabell, Tina, Terri and our families

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



Elizabeth Schnerr has moved. Please note the change in your Church Directory 2011.

Elizabeth (Betty) Schnerr
100 Forrest Ridge Drive, Apt. 119
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648



Summer Book Study

Tuesday, August 9

Book Study at Sand Hills Church at 7 p.m.

"A New Kind of Christianity" by Brian McLaren
led by the Rev. Paul Rhebergen



Happy Birthday

August 2011



2	Helmut Kunst	17	Jack Miner
	Jean Marie Smith	18	Etta Freeman
	David Steinouer	19	Frank Fioravanti
3	Lou Van Bruggen		Susan Kane
4	Beth Cieplechowicz		Virginia Terry
	Jim Paterson		Richard Volz, Jr.
5	Helena Silvestri	20	Tyler Warner
6	Clara Mae Caruso	23	Troy Donnelly
10	Sophia Birchenough	24	Carol Houghton
	Carl Edinger	28	Susan Powell
11	Marissa Whitlock	29	George McClain
12	June Scott		Ann Tregurtha
13	Lillian Kopcsik	30	Bryan Cherny
	Michael Kuschyk		Karl Christiansen
	Ryan Monday		Allan Drake
14	Vince Cherny, Jr.		Virginia Landgraf
15	Jason Young		
16	Lynda Evrenoglou		
	Marcia Szedula		





*Trenton
Community Music
School
Summer Arts Camp
PO Box 5206
Trenton, NJ 08638
609.394.7800
www.tcmusicschool.com*

CityArts is a collaborative of arts organizations of the Greater Trenton, New Jersey, area whose mission is to expand opportunities in the arts for children and youth in Trenton.

Mission

To expand opportunities in the arts for children and youth of the Greater Trenton community.

Vision

- Access to quality arts education for children and youth
 - Advocacy on behalf of collaborating art organizations
- Development and expansion of social capital

Summer Arts Camp 2011

Ages: 6 -12

Dates: Monday, August 22 – Friday, August 26, 2011 Time: 8 AM - 4 PM

Cost: \$150 per camper*

This will be the second in a series of CityArts camps in Trenton focused on the visual and performing arts. We are providing a one-week, full-day program, beginning at 8 AM and ending at 4 PM each day. Classes, taught by experienced and talented arts educators, will be held at

Covenant Presbyterian Church, 471 Parkway Avenue, Trenton.

Teen counselors from the Trenton Teen Leadership Corps will be assisting the teachers and artists.

Campers must **bring their own lunches**, including a beverage each day. Snacks will be provided.

Please visit our website at www.tcmusicschool.com

In the lower left hand corner you will see a star and the words Summer Camp 2011 Information Click on that box and go to the bottom of that page and click on Summer Camp 2011 Flyer (PDF)