

The Covenant Newsletter



Celebrating Black History!

February 2011

Covenant Presbyterian Church
471 Parkway Avenue – Trenton, New Jersey 08618
609.989.8282
www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org

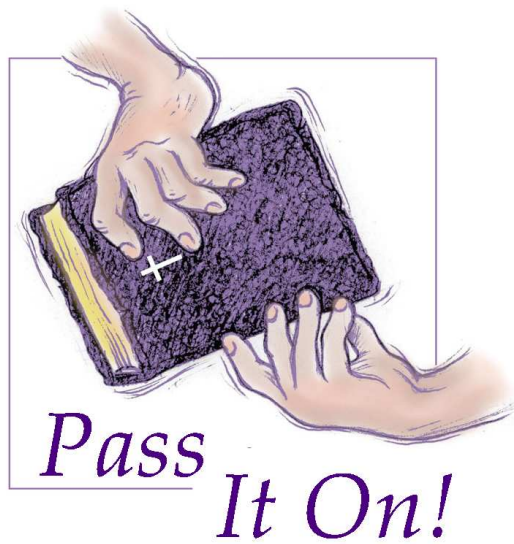
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Covenant Online. . .

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 Valentine's Day story
- ▶ Info about the CASA program
- ▶ Our new Ministry of Health.
- ▶ Info about the spiritual book club.
- ▶ Info about our new ID card program.
- ▶ Letters from and news about our missionaries.
- ▶ Late-breaking church news.
- ▶ Downloadable copies of various documents and forms.
- ▶ Photos of past church events.
- ▶ Photos of recently baptized babies.
- ▶ Links to other websites of interest.



Minister's Message

*Spreading the Good News
Means Evangelism
by All of Us!*

Evangelism and Membership has always been a strong commission at our church. It is an especially creative and active one right now, being present at fairs and parades with our van handing out Frisbees with

church info, Trunk-or-Treat activities, placemat advertisements at the Ewing Diner, welcome gifts to visitors etc. As a church, we should be very proud of that. We are not shy in promoting the love of God we have found in our community of faith! You can have the most spiritual worship celebrations, the most wonderful music programs, far-reaching mission and outreach activities, a vibrant youth group and faith-filled Bible studies and educational classes, but you have to get the Word out. That's what we are called to do, to spread the Good News, to share the gospel. That's what evangelism means.

I proposed that Evangelism be one of the five E's of Encouragement this year. In our two-year-long quest to intentionally live into our mission statement, the emphasis this coming year is on the *encourage* part. So Evangelism can be one of the Five E's of Encouragement. (The others — Education, Excellence, Excitement and Enjoyment — will be dealt with this year as well.)

Evangelism, sharing the Good News, is of course not confined to one group of people, one pastor, the staff. It's all of us that can make the difference. Make sure to invite a friend and to share with others what feeds you spiritually. Make sure to engage others, because the love of God has no limits to its reach. We have plenty to share, and let's do it!

Here is part of the Mission Statement that our Evangelism Commission has (for the whole statement, check our website under Documents). Read and discover how much this appeals to all of us. *“The Evangelism and Membership Commission* promotes an atmosphere of friendliness and hospitality among the members and visitors of the church.... Reaches out to the community to welcome all people into our church and works to remove any barriers to make our congregation more inclusive of all people who seek a community of God’s love.” We can all be part of creating this hospitable atmosphere based on God’s radical welcome and love for all people.

We are blessed in many ways and we ought to not keep it to ourselves.

“You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’” Isaiah 40:9.

God bless,

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 .

Session Notes



At its January 18 meeting, the Session:

- Met and examined the new elders and deacons.
- Approved the resignation of Adele Drake from Covenant to return to the Catholic Church, and the reinstatement as a member of Grace Moore, a resident of

the Lawrenceville Nursing Home.

- Elected the following officers: president of the corporation, Shirley Rader; treasurer, Mickey Reilly; clerk of Session, Carol Stawski.
- Elected the following elders as commissioners to Presbytery: Jeff Lippincott, Regina Schnerr, George Self and Carol Stawski.
- Heard in the Treasurer's Report that all commissions have lowered their budgets by 10 percent except for Building and Grounds, which has to replace a leaking water line that runs under the parking lot to the Presbytery office.
- Heard that the new line item in the 2011 budget, Faith Commitment and Growth Fund, created to fill the \$27,000 deficit, received \$1,920 in the first two weeks.
- Heard from the Adult Education Commission that the church-wide retreat will be held at Camp Johnsonburg March 11-13, 2011, and that plans are being made for a soup and sandwich dinner similar to the Thanksgiving dinner.
- Heard from the Congregational Life and Fellowship Commission that a chili throw-down will be held February 27, a Palm Sunday brunch April 27 and Tea by the Sea, with a silent auction, May 14.
- Heard from the Worship and Music Commission that Alice Wardlow and Pam Miller will co-chair the commission, with Nancy Schluter and Carol Stawski as liaisons to Session; that a start-up bell choir will be organized in February and will perform during worship March 6, and that Ash Wednesday will be observed March 9 at Ewing Church with soup and the imposition of ashes.
- Heard that a Commission Sunday will be held February 6 to publicize the opportunity to serve on our commissions.



*The ID Program at Covenant
Thursdays
February 3 and 17
5:00—7:00 p.m.*

**SHOW PROOF OF IDENTITY AND PROOF OF DOMICILE
PAY FEE: \$10 ADULT, \$5 YOUTH UNDER 18**

REQUIREMENTS

WHAT YOU NEED TO PROVE IDENTITY

ONE (1) of the following:

Passport (any country)
U.S. Driver license (NJ or other state)
Consular ID Card
NJ or Mercer County photo ID.
Permanent Resident card (Green Card)
U.S. Work Authorization Card
Library Card

OR Two (2) of the following:

Birth certificate (any country)
Drivers license from country of origin
Gov't or Voter's ID card (any country)
Bank or school photo ID
Social Security Card
Letter from a sponsoring organization

WHAT YOU NEED TO PROVE YOUR DOMICILE

Electric bill, phone bill, mortgage statement, (no cell phone bill)
Bank or financial account statement
Copy of a lease or tax bill

This card is issued by the One Community Coalition, and is not an official government ID, but is endorsed by the Ewing, Plainsboro, Princeton Borough, Princeton Township, Trenton, and West Windsor Police Departments, and the Mercer County Sheriff and Prosecutor's Office. The coalition will not share or retain any personal data from the applicants. All personal information will be deleted once the card is issued.

**For more information call: Covenant Presbyterian Church
(609) 989-8282
or the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund (LALDEF)
1-877-452-5333 www.LALDEF.org**

Covenant's Annual Blood Drive

Last year's blood drive was great. Let's do even better this year.
Please help this year's blood drive be a success!

February 20, 8 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Fellowship Hall.



To sign up, go to redcrossblood.org and enter
sponsor code 14111.

You may also call Pam Miller Please put this on your calendar!



Need a Ride to the Retreat?

The Board of Deacons is offering
transportation for anyone who would
like to participate in the March retreat at

Johnsonburg for the day on Saturday, March 12.

The van will leave from Covenant at approximately 7:15 a.m.
and return Saturday evening after dinner.

Please call Joyce Jaeger if you are interested.

Commission Sunday is February 6!



Come to Fellowship Hall after worship on
February 6 and take a moment to meet with
members of Covenant's commissions/committees.
We are looking for fresh new faces, ideas, and en-
ergy. Please join us. Most commissions meet only
once a month. Looking forward to working with
you!

Spiritual Growth

Wednesday, February 9, 7 p.m.

The Book Study group will discuss the book, *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor, and will finish its study of *A New Kind of Christianity* by Brian D. McLaren.

Read chapters three and four (pages 35-68) of the Taylor book and the final pages (173-259) of the McLaren book.

Come and enjoy an interesting discussion of these two important books. Bring a friend! (For more information on this group, see CovenantChurchTrenton.org.)

Sunday, February 13, 12 noon

There will be a service of Healing and Wholeness in the Chapel. This service is also for those who are seeking employment and those who just want to give thanks. It is led by the Rev. Nancy Schluter. Join us and bring a friend.

Tuesday, February 15, 1 p.m.

The women's Bible study will meet in the lounge. The group is discussing "*Journeys Through Revelation, Apocalyptic Hope for Today.*"

In recent years, an enormous prophecy industry has marketed frightening images and interpretations of the book of *Revelation*, leaving many Christians intimidated by this amazing, often misunderstood book. Although brimming with mysterious symbolism, *Revelation* ultimately is a book of hope that sustains those who are oppressed.

The nine lessons of the *Journeys Through Revelation* lead us to a renewed creation in which God comes to live with us on earth. This hope-filled vision speaks to us in the mist of urgent cries of our day. *Bring a friend with you!*



Wednesday, February 16, 7 p.m.

Covenant's women's group, the *Circle of Sisters*, will meet in the lounge. Bring a Valentine to share with your sisters!

Call a week in advance to inquire about babysitting arrangements. Call 989.8282 and ask for Jane Politi.

Sunday, February 20, 7:45 a.m.

The men of Covenant will meet in the Drake Room for breakfast and discussion. All men are invited to come and bring a friend.



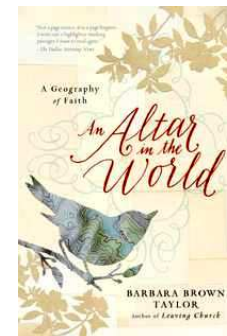
Sunday, February 20, 12 noon



When you think of Jesus, or of God, whom do you see? How does that image make you feel? Does it matter that you may see Jesus differently than others do? Does one's image of Jesus have any relationship to one's relationship with God and with others? Sandra Austin will lead our conversation in the Lounge as together we explore and consider our images of Jesus and how they are relevant in our life together as Christians.

Wednesday, February 23, 7 p.m.

The Book Study group will continue to read and discuss *An Altar in the World*. Come and enjoy an interesting discussion of this important book. Bring a friend!





Race Matters Are Faith Matters!

*A Covenant Church/Beloved Community Bible Study
and Discussion Series for Black History Month
beginning February 6 at 9:30a.m. in the lounge
led by The Rev. Toby Sanders*

Just like faith, history that does not transform us is not only useless but dangerous, even death-dealing. They both become what Pelikan rightly called the “the dead religion of living people”: traditionalism. How do we keep faith and history alive and vibrant, relevant and revelatory? Courageous study and application of their lessons to the most serious challenges we face in our lives together is an answer.

Among these challenges is the virulent, devastating and pernicious specter of race. In a fitting celebration of Black History Month, the In Between team will offer a challenging and provocative study of scripture, history and bold voices of contemporary legatees of the American struggle for justice and equality through the force of Love against white supremacy.

Each of the four sessions will seek to put in conversation scripture, Black history and a contemporary voice on an issue of local significance impacted by racism. The goal of the study and discussions is to develop a deeper understanding of the lingering power of race and to find a way to make a difference locally in this global struggle.



Schedule

Race Matters Are Faith Matters!
led by the Rev. Toby Sanders

All sessions are at 9:30 a.m.
in the lounge.

February 6

Race and the Local Economy:
The Call and Death of Stephen, Acts 6-7
Colorblind by Tom Wise (chapters 1, 2 & 3)

February 13

Race and Local Criminal Justice:
Sibboleth Shibboleth, Judges 12
The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander (chapter 3)

February 20

Race and Local Education:
The Syro Phoenician Dog, Mark 7:25-30
Talking to Strangers by Danielle Allen (chapters 8 & 9)

February 27

Race and the Local Church:
The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37
Jesus and Justice by Peter Heltzel (chapter 2)

**(All book text is available in the church office.
If you would like a copy mailed to you call Rae at 609.989.8282)**



Youth Corner

The holiday season was a whirlwind for the youth program... as I'm sure it was for most of you as well!

First off, we would like to thank all of those who purchased a holiday wreath through our fundraiser. We successfully raised \$650 from

the wreath sale, which will be used to offset the cost of our summer mission trip.

I can safely say that our youth had a great deal of holiday spirit throughout December. We began the month with a trip to Shady Brook Farm's Holiday Light Show, where we took a horse-drawn hayride and made s'mores by the fire. The youth also participated in Covenant's Advent Festival, which was a huge success this year. We completed the holiday festivities with a night of caroling to the shut-ins of Covenant and Ewing Presbyterian Churches. We brightened many people's evening, and, as usual, there were tears, sing-alongs, and, after preparing a snack for the whole group, one member told us we "kicked off her holiday season." What a blessing!

The youth group forged full speed ahead into 2011, launching the new year in fun fashion with a bowling outing, where there were many strikes, spares, and conversations about Christmas wares. We then returned to Ewing Presbyterian the following week and got back on track with regular meetings and our theme of "Faith and Music." We explored a song that inspired us to discuss how hard it can be to understand why God lets bad things happen and how we can trust in Him in times of trouble. The youth then took a week to share their own songs of inspiration and, as usual, enjoyed games, fellowship and

snacks. We finished off the month of January with a trip to Laser Park for laser tag, a favorite event for many youth and even for some of our Shepherds!

During January, the youth also had to reserve their spots for the summer mission trip. I am ecstatic to report that we have 13 youth signed up for this summer's mission trip, when YouthWorks will host us in Raleigh County (Appalachia), West Virginia, for a week of service. That being said, we'll be doing some more fundraising as the year progresses, so stay tuned to find how you can help make the trip more affordable for all!

Hope everyone is surviving the snow safely and comfortably as you read your newsletter!

Jessica Jaeger, Youth Minister

Youth Group Upcoming Events

January 30 – Laser Tag 4-6:30 p.m. (Meet at Covenant)
(Joint Event)

February 6 – Ice Skating Mercer County Park 1-3 p.m.

February 13 – Valentine's Cards for shut-ins and Cookie
Decorating (regular times)

February 18 – Junior and Senior High Lock-In
(Friday Night)

February 27 – Regular Meeting at Covenant

Obituary



Jessie Rogers

Josephine "Jessie" Vaccaro Rogers, a long-time member of Covenant Church, died Tuesday, January 18.

Jessie was born in Chickasaw, Pennsylvania, and had resided in the Trenton area since she was 2 years old. She served for 39 years as an administrative secretary with the New Jersey Department of Education. She and her late husband, William J. Rogers, were foster parents to a young Colombian boy for five years.

Jessie enjoyed fishing in South Carolina, where she and her husband would spend their vacations. She also bowled and played baseball for a team at DeLaval.

She was the last member of her immediate family, having been predeceased by her five sisters and three brothers. Our Christian sympathy is extended to her many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Funeral services were held at Covenant January 21 with the Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff officiating.

Christ's Church Deep and Wide



The 2011 Big Tent will be held from June 30 to July 2 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Nine national conferences will be offered, among them the Clergy Women's Leadership Institute, Evangelism and Church Development Conference and Racial, Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation.

Special tracks for collegians, youth and youth workers will also be available. For more information, please go to www.pcusa.org/bigtent



Fair Trade Coffee is Back

The Mission and Outreach Commission is once again selling fair trade coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate bars at fellowship hour.

They will be doing so on February 20 and the third Sunday of every month.

Purchasing these items enables farmers in Third World countries to get a fair price for their crops ...and enables you to get tasty items!



Children's Advocates Sought

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Mercer County, a nonprofit organization, is seeking volunteer advocates who want to make a difference in the life of a foster child. CASA will offer 30 hours of training this spring.

An hour-long informational session will be offered at CASA's offices at 1450 Parkside Ave., Suite 22, in Ewing, at 9:30 a.m. February 3, 5:30 p.m. February 15, 7 p.m. February 23 and 5:30 p.m. February 28. Additional information can be found at CovenantChurchTrenton.org.

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 taken to church and then taken home. Below is the schedule for February van drivers.



Van driver phone numbers are Joyce Jaeger at 609.883

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Feb. 6 | Jeff |
| Feb. 13 | Mickey |
| Feb. 20 | Joyce |
| Feb. 27 | Dave |

Serving at TASK

Thursday, February 24

The **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen** volunteers will be serving dinner on Thursday, February 24.

Although we had hoped that we might be able to schedule a second monthly volunteer opportunity, it turns out that TASK is completely scheduled and has no time slots available for a group. However, our group, which is now listed as four to six people, could 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 Dave Kulp drives us in the van 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 go on the van. Just let us know you are coming by calling Donna Amick.



Food for Friends

Sunday, February 27

Our **Food for Friends** collection on February 27 will go to **Phoebe's Pantry**, the food pantry at **Bethany Presbyterian Church**. 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 Phoebe's Pantry, 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.



Personal Note

To All My Covenant Friends,

Thank you all for your prayers, concerns and cards, as I am getting better every day.

A big thank-you to Jan Willem for his wonderful visit and caring. A thank-you, too, to Ann and Dave Tregurtha for bringing the lovely bouquet from our church service.

You are the best!

Much Love, *Marjorie Burtis*

On February 13 during worship will be the Installation and Ordination of new officer.



Beginner Handbell Choir Sundays in February 12 noon – 12:45 pm

Do you enjoy listening to the Hand Bell choir during the service? Have you ever wanted to ring? Join us every Sunday in February from 12-12:45 for an introduction to ringing bells and chimes. On Sunday March 6th we'll participate in worship performing a stress-free piece. Don't know how to read music? Not a problem! Derek will teach you everything you need to know.

FEBRUARY 2011 BIRTHDAYS



| | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|
| 2 | Chris Bornemann | 16 | Michael Romanowsky |
| | Brian Trevor | 18 | Morgan Paterson |
| 3 | David Miles | | Gary Smith |
| 6 | Gale Schwilk | 19 | Juliana Silvestri |
| | Jean Thompson | 21 | Andrew Jurczynski |
| 7 | Brandon Konopka | | Erica Innerarity |
| | Kristin Raichel-Law | 22 | Rufus Williams |
| 8 | Cathy Volz | 23 | Alyssa Long |
| 9 | Betty Newberry | 24 | Marie Almond |
| 10 | Michael Miles | | Deborah Rader |
| | Caitlin Miner | | Darla Ulrich |
| 13 | Shirley Rader | 25 | Sarah Beth Rader |
| 14 | Matthew Sanders | 29 | Evan Birchenough |

Deadline for the March newsletter is Thursday, March 17. Submissions received after the deadline will not get into the newsletter. Submissions may be dropped off, mailed or e-mailed to the church office.



It's a
Chili Throwdown!

*Sunday, February 27
during Coffee Hour*

immediately following the morning worship service

1st Place receives a trophy and prize!

2nd Place also receives a prize!

Rules & Registration

1. Must let us know that you are entering—
Register with Jane Schwilk or Karin Zasoski no later than
Sunday, February 20.
2. Must bring your chili in a hot crock pot and be delivered to the
kitchen ***by 9:45 a.m. February 27***
3. Must submit at least one gallon of chili to be sampled
by the congregation for judging
4. Due to possible food allergies, chili ingredients must be listed
and submitted to Jane or Karin on a 3 x 5 card.
*(Your recipe will be kept a secret, but if someone needs to know the contents
due to a food allergy, we need to be able to tell them.)*

For those who are not chili fans, sloppy joes will also be available!

While at this event,

please remember to place your loose change in our

Pennies From Heaven jar to help with the cost of painting our church!

Let the Competition Begin!