

# The Covenant Newsletter



*May the sun shine, all day long,  
everything go right, and nothing wrong.*

— Irish Blessing

## March 2011

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
471 Parkway Avenue  
Trenton, New Jersey 08618  
609.989.8282  
[www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org](http://www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org)

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## Covenant Online...

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

- ▶ Form for ordering Easter flowers.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Links to many other websites of interest.
- ▶ Links to several versions of the Bible., the Book of Confessions and The Upper Room.
- ▶ Prayers and inspirational poems.
- ▶ Photos of recently baptized babies.



## *Minister's Message*

*The mission of Covenant Presbyterian Church is to encourage a diverse worship family that is representative of our past and embraces our future.*

Ash Wednesday, March 9, we will, just as we did last year, join our sisters and brothers at Ewing Presbyterian Church for a Simple Soup Supper at 6 p.m. This plain meal will conclude in a service of Communion, Reflection on the Word and the Imposition of Ashes. Please come, to (literally, if you wish) mark the beginning of our journey into Lent, and also as a sign of connectedness and solidarity with our friends in Christ down the road.

I hope you will deepen your faith with us throughout Lent. A good way to celebrate the first weekend in Lent is by joining us on the third annual retreat, *Bread for the Journey* (March 11, 12, and 13).

What was the best meal you ever shared? Who was your company? What was the conversation about? Think about it for a minute and you can probably answer these questions. But what about these questions: What was the best meal Jesus ever shared? Who was his company? Did Jesus initiate the Last Supper? What have we made of it in our Communion sacrament? Who are at the table? What feeds you?

We will entertain these and many other questions at our retreat. If you have not yet signed up for the weekend or for the Saturday only (the van is driving there and back for the day!), please do so now. It will be an informative, fun- and faith-filled weekend, and it will deepen your spiritual journey.

Attending would also fit in well with the second E of Encouragement we are exploring: Education. (The others are Evangelism, Excellence, Excitement and Enjoyment, and will be dealt with this year as well.)

I believe strongly in growing our faith through studying, praying and, quite frankly, having fellowship and fun together. If we are not life-long learners in our faith journey, we will get stuck! We are on the move, though, in our church and in our individual lives. So come and continue to grow your faith with us. Come and broaden your knowledge, deepen your faith and build stronger fellowship. Come to the table of God's love that Christ has prepared for us.

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](mailto:jwvanderwerff@comcast.net) (Monday is his day off.)



## Session Notes

At its February 15 meeting, the Session:

- ▶ Heard that the treasurer will place an item in the bulletin each Sunday to keep the congregation informed about the amount of donations to the Faith Commitment and Growth Fund.

- ▶ Heard that each commission is keeping within its budget except for Building and Grounds, because of the water pipe leak beneath the driveway and the fuel bill, which was 60 percent higher in January. The tenant bill was 40 percent higher.

- ▶ Adopted a suggestion that portable heaters be used when only one or two rooms are being used, rather than heat the entire building.

- ▶ Learned from the pastor that the late William F. Marsh had left an unrestricted bequest of \$10,000 to Covenant Church.

- ▶ Was encouraged by the pastor to attend the 2011 Big Tent conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 30 to July 2. The pastor reported that some Presbytery funds are available to help cover the cost.

- ▶ Learned from the Congregational Life and Fellowship Commission that the annual church picnic will be held on the church grounds.

- ▶ Learned from the Evangelism and Membership Commission that six new members have been added; that the commission may hand out hot pretzels at the Ewing Fourth of July Parade, that tickets (\$8) will be sold for the July 30 Trenton Thunder home game, and that Dining Out will be revived.

- ▶ Learned that the pastor and the Seminarian Support Group are looking for two students at Princeton Theological Seminary to participate in Covenant's life in 2011-2012 as part of their education.



**2011 Easter Memorial Flowers  
Covenant Presbyterian Church**

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Total</i>
_____ <i>Hyacinths @ \$8.50 each (3 blooms)</i>	_____
_____ <i>Daffodils @ \$12.00 each</i>	_____

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Total</i>
_____ <i>Lilies @ \$9.00 each (5/6 blooms)</i>	_____
_____ <i>Tulips @ \$9.00 each (6 blooms)</i>	_____

*Please **print** all information:*

*LISTED IN "MEMORY" OF \_\_\_\_\_*

*LISTED IN "HONOR" OF \_\_\_\_\_*

*Given by \_\_\_\_\_*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Please take your flowers after the worship service.  
If you'd like to leave your flowers, please see one of the deacons.*

**Deadline for orders: April 10, 2011**

**Make checks payable to: Covenant Church**

**Contact**  
George Amick,  
Pam Miller  
Jane Politi,  
The Rev. Nancy Schluter  
Carol Stawski  
Marcia Szedula  
Alice Wardlow



## Doug Baker, Missionary to Northern Ireland, Returns to Covenant



Doug Baker (right) with family

Come for lunch and hear first-hand what one of Covenant Presbyterian Church's missionaries is doing overseas!

Several years ago, the Rev. Doug Baker visited us and told us about his peacemaking mission in troubled Northern Ireland. He'll return for a luncheon at Covenant at 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 4, to tell us about his recent activities.

What a great opportunity! Call the church office to make a reservation for this event.



## World Day of Prayer

World Prayer Day will be observed Friday, March 4, and church members are being asked to participate in 15 minutes of prayer throughout the day.

A sign-up sheet with designated time slots will be in Fellowship Hall following the February 27 service. Please see Lorraine Metzgar, Karen Pennypacker, Jane Politi, JoAnn Trevor, or Alice Wardlow to select a time slot.

## Spiritual Growth



Lent is a time of deepening, with this year's arrival beyond the usual midpoint of winter. Lent this year doesn't follow on the heels of the holiday season, whose final hurrah usually ushers us into the vast quiet.

Lent calls us to attend to what is taking place beneath, to notice the stillness and the gentle movement in our souls.

### ***Wednesday, March 9, 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday***

Simple Soup Supper at Ewing Presbyterian Church. Please join us and bring a friend to this simple meal which concludes in a worship service of Communion, Reflection on the Word and the Imposition of Ashes.

### ***Friday, Saturday, Sunday, March 11. 12, \$ 13***

Annual Church-Wide Retreat—Bread for the Journey  
Please see Jane Politi to sign up and for more information.

### ***The Women's Bible Study, 1pm, Tuesday, March 15***

The women's Bible study group will meet in the lounge. The group is discussing "*Journey 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. The nine lessons of *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 midst of the urgent cries of our day. *Bring a friend with you!*

***Wednesday, March 16, 7 p.m.***

Covenant's women's group, the *Circle of Sisters*, will meet in the lounge. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, bring something Irish or something green to share with your sisters.

Call a week in advance to inquire about babysitting arrangements. Call 609.989.8282 and ask for Jane Politi.



***Sunday, March 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.

***Wednesday, March 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!



***Mark your April Calendar!  
It's an Intergenerational Party  
for HomeFront!***

***April 6 from 5:30pm to 7:00 pm  
in Covenant's Fellowship Hall***

Mark your calendars for  
***Wednesday, April 6 in Covenant's  
Fellowship Hall from 5:30pm to 7:00pm***

for an intergenerational party focusing on youth. Bring family and friends to this exciting party. More details forthcoming so make sure you check out our monthly newsletter, e-news and our website [www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org](http://www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org)



## *Youth Corner*

Since the last time we checked in, the youth group has had a lot of fun, participated in some discussions, and performed some service, too.

We took an early afternoon trip for some ice skating on Super Bowl Sunday so we could spend some time together before the big game.

Even though some were upset to see the Steelers lose, we had a great afternoon together on the ice.

The following Sunday, in the spirit of Valentine's Day, we chose to share our love with the shut-ins of Covenant and Ewing Presbyterian churches by creating and mailing handmade Valentines to spread that "warm and fuzzy" feeling. We hope we brought smiles to some faces! We shared some love with each other, as well, by decorating and enjoying heart-shaped cookies together.

As I write this, we are gearing up for a Junior/Senior High Lock-in on Friday night, where we'll share snacks, games, movies and pretty much everything except a good night's sleep! Then we'll end the month with a regular meeting at which we'll discuss a popular song and how it relates to our lives and our faith.

After this hard winter, I'm sure many of you are looking forward to spring. The youth have lots to look forward to, as well, as warmer weather approaches, including Johnsonburg retreats and some fund-raising for our summer mission trip. It's going to get busy as the weather changes!

*Jessica Jaeger, Youth Minister*

# March Youth Group Schedule

*This month, we'll meet at Ewing.*



**March 6**

Regular Meeting

**March 13**

Game Night

**March 20**

Regular Meeting

**March 27**

Frisbee Golf or Rock  
Climbing – TBA

## Personal Notes

To Our Anonymous Friend,

Thank you for the anonymous member who blessed our family with a generous gift. We are very grateful for your kind words and monetary aid.

We will hold you in our prayers of gratitude.

*The Trevor Family*

Dear Covenant Friends:

Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls and other expressions of concern during my recent health problems.

I especially thank Jan Willem for his hospital visit and the lovely flowers he brought from that Sunday's service. They brightened my day.

God bless all of you.

*Carol Pollison*



### Love is in the air at Covenant! They're Engaged!

*Sean Miller*, son of Gary and Pam Miller, is engaged to Elana Flicker, originally from Long Island, N.Y.

*Jessica Jaeger*, daughter of Randy and Joyce Jaeger, is engaged to Eric Czerwinski. A late summer or early fall wedding is planned.

Congratulations, Jessica and Sean!





## **A Service of Prayer For Healing and Wholeness**

*Sunday, March 6*

*12 noon*

This service is a time for quiet meditation, reflection, prayer, and anointing with oil. Together we will focus our worship and deepen our faith through prayer.

Our souls are often too "busy" to hear the voice of God calling out to them, and our service is meant to quiet the soul. There will be spoken prayers, and there will be silence. Be still and be at peace in the presence of God.

Relax in God's presence and use this time for contemplation, listening, and speaking to God.

Join us and bring a friend!

### **Community I.D. Cards**

Covenant Church, through the Mission and Outreach Commission, is participating in a countywide effort to supply identification cards to residents who lack such identification and need it to get along in today's complex society. The cards, issued by the One Community Coalition, do not constitute official government I.D., but are endorsed by the police departments of Ewing, Plainsboro, both Princetons, Trenton and West Windsor, as well as the Mercer County sheriff and prosecutor's office.

## Blood Drive a Success!



Thanks to all who helped the blood drive be the best yet! We had 25 donors, with five who did double red blood cells, making our total usable units 30, which was our goal. Thanks also to George McClain for security, Loren Medwick and Tom Crum for taking over the watch in Fellowship Hall.

The Red Cross is in dire need of donors because the bad winter weather has caused a major drop in the available supply. If you missed ours for any reason, please go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to find a local drive you can make. They need the support.

## 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 March and April van drivers.



March 6	Dave
March 13	Mickey
March 20	Jeff
March 27	Joyce
April 3	Dave
April 10	Joyce
April 17	Jeff
April 24	Mickey



## *Serving at TASK*

*Thursday, March 24*

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

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 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.



## *Food for Friends*

*Sunday, March 27*

Our **Food for Friends** collection on March 27 will go to the food pantry at **Crisis Ministry**. 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 Crisis Ministry, 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.

## From Our Mission Partners



Dear Covenant,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250 to Womanspace. Until we see an end to domestic violence and sexual assault, it is comforting to know that we do not stand alone in caring for its victims.

The generous support you and others provide allows Womanspace to serve over 10,000 adults and children annually in Mercer County. We provide 24-hour bilingual hotlines, emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, individual and group counseling and support services, legal clinic advocacy, trained domestic violence response teams and sexual assault support advocates, community education and training programs. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely, *Patricia Hart*, Executive Director



Julia R. Cavalucci of Hamilton Township passed away September 3, 2010, at the age of 85. Our Christian sympathy is extended to her son and daughter-in-law, Gerard and Marilyn Cavalucci, and to her grandchildren, Chris and Paula Cavalucci.

# Happy Birthday

## March 2011



1	Peggy Grenwelge	14	Dorothy Cole
3	Donna Amick	17	Robert Volz
	Katie Bocskay	19	Natalie Knechel
4	Julia Kuschyk	20	Abigail Christiansen
5	Olivia Birchenough	21	Christopher Andriana
7	Hedy Delaney		Jennifer Reese
	Kevin McMullen	24	Kristin Shellenberger
	Patricia Thorward		Constance Wojnarski
9	Brett Reese	25	Jeffrey Cossaboon
10	Doreen Reid		Lloyd Tucker
	Barbara Smith	27	George Amick
12	J. David Tregurtha		Eileen Kaluzny
13	Kathleen Pollison	28	Lillian Werenne
	Jeannella Williams	31	Jewell Hand

*Deadline for the April newsletter is Wednesday, March 23. Submissions received after the deadline will not get into the newsletter. Submissions may be dropped off, mailed or e-mailed to the church office.*

### The Covenant Newsletter

Pastor: Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff  
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Nancy H. Schluter  
Administrative Assistant/Graphics : Rae Richardson  
Newsletter: Donna & George Amick



## Literacy Volunteers in Mercer County

3535 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 104  
Hamilton, New Jersey 08619  
(609) 587-6027  
[www.princetonol.com/groups/lvamc](http://www.princetonol.com/groups/lvamc)

### TUTOR TRAINING COURSE SPRING 2011

#### EVENING

Monday, 6-9 p.m. at the LVMC Office  
March 14, 21, 28  
April 4, 11

#### DAYTIME

Wednesday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the LVMC Office  
March 16, 23, 30  
April 6, 13

#### *CPC Tutors Urgently Needed!*

After these fun, informative classes at the LVMC office, come join Covenant's Literacy Ministry to tutor your student, who will be provided by LVMC. You can borrow unlimited **teaching materials** and receive **continued support** from LVMC.

*Or . . .*

if you've had previous teaching experience, and know someone who needs your skills, just join Covenant's Literacy Ministry without taking classes.