

# The Covenant Newsletter

*Happy  
Mother's  
Day*



May 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:

- ▶ Photos of the March retreat!
- ▶ Our Ministry of Health, updated each month.
- ▶ 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 VBC, mission trips, Irish Tea and many 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

## 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."*

On Easter Sunday (April 24),  
our sanctuary bustled with tremen-  
dous **excitement**. First, we all greeted  
each other, sharing the peace in the  
name of the Risen Christ and pro-

claiming: "Do not be afraid. He is not here. Do not be afraid. For  
He has been raised!"

How often does somebody tell you in the name of Christ:  
Do not be afraid? In the sanctuary that morning, with so many  
faithful gathered, it happened not just once, but many times.

Then came the children. And the balloons. The children re-  
leased their balloons, representing our shouts of "alleluia!", and  
we watched them go all the way up to the ceiling, going up as high  
as possible! Praise God! The Upper Room of Maundy Thursday we  
had been gathered in was made into a Resurrection Hall full of  
excitement on Easter Sunday. Inspiring music, with choirs and a  
brass quintet, topped it all off.

Easter is such a great and magnificent event that we should  
be excited over it and go all out for it. As followers of Christ, we  
must make sure that our celebrations are not dull or predictable,  
because Easter is a life-changing experience. The first Easter  
abounded with excitement and energy.

Just look at Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. In Matthew 21: 8, we read: “The women left the empty tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.” When the two Marys ran from the tomb, they were probably just as fearful as they were excited. But because, time after time, the Bible tells us “Do not be afraid,” what remained with them was great joy!

What energy! What excitement! There was nothing planned, orderly and dull about it. With incredible energy, they ran to share the Easter message of a risen Christ to their mourning friends.

The challenge for us is to keep the excitement of Easter alive. We should and will not have to wait another year for such great joy, because each Sunday we celebrate a little Easter. Each time two or three come together in Christ’s name, the resurrected One will be there also (Matthew 18:20). Beginning this Eastertide, this Easter Season, the period of fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday, let’s continue to be aware of and create great Easter joy!

God Bless,

*Jan Willem*

The Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff

*Note: Excitement is the fourth E of Encouragement. In the first months of 2011, I have been exploring the five E’s of Encouragement. The E’s are derived from the word Encourage as it is used in our mission statement: We at Covenant “encourage a diverse worship family,” and, for example, by the apostle Paul: “Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11) In previous newsletters, I have discussed the words: •Evangelism (February), •Education (March) and •Excellence (April); the remaining E is Enjoyment.*



## Session Notes

At its April 19 meeting,  
the Session:

- ▶ Heard Deacon Sandra Austin request on behalf of the Board of Deacons that the elders and the deacons discuss the subject of Johnsonburg scholarships.
  - ▶ Was reminded by Elder Mickey Reilly that contributions to the Birthday Club can be added to any fund of the contributors' choice, including the Faith and Growth Fund.
  - ▶ Learned that Jessica Jaeger will resign as youth minister effective August 1, 2011.
  - ▶ Learned that the Evangelism and Membership Commission may sponsor a pancake breakfast at Applebee's on Route 1.
  - ▶ Learned that Elder George Self will be commissioned by Covenant before he joins a delegation organized by the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church to travel to Nepal this spring to establish a mission relationship with the Ebenezer Bible College and related churches.
  - ▶ Learned that the next Wholeness and Healing service will be held in June 2011.



### 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.)



## *Covenant Presbyterian Church Educational Scholarship Fund by Millard and Lillian Prutky*

This fund was established in 2006. It gives to Covenant Church an annual disbursement to provide annual scholarships to Mercer County residents who demonstrate financial need, aptitude and commitment to higher education, and Christian values as evidenced by their activity in church/community activities.

Applicants must:

Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States and Mercer County.

Be a full-time or part-time student enrolled in an accredited school, university, or college.

Have earned or maintained a minimum GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent.

Reflect Christian values through church/community activities.



*Application Deadline*  
*May 29, 2011*

Please submit application packets to:

Millard and Lillian Prutky Scholarship Committee  
c/o Covenant Presbyterian Church  
471 Parkway Avenue  
Trenton New Jersey 08618

Your packets MUST include the following:

1. You must file a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Submit the cover letter of the SAR (Student Aid Report), which includes your expected family contribution amount (EFC).
2. A signed letter of your intent to matriculate.
3. A typed essay reflecting your future goals, your chosen proposed course of study and your demonstrated Christian values.
4. A current transcript from your high school or college.
5. Three letters of recommendation – one from each:
  - a. A current educational institution
  - b. A church-affiliated person
  - c. A general recommendation from a non-family member

All monies awarded by the Scholarship Committee will be paid directly to the educational institutions in the amounts determined by the committee.

## *Annual Women's Worship Service*

We are inviting ALL Covenant women to be a part of this year's Women's Service. The service is at 10:30 a.m. May 8.

If you are interested in helping to create the service, contact one of the following members of the Adult Education Commission: Lorraine Metzger, Karen Pennypacker, Jane Politi, JoAnn Trevor, or Alice Wardlow.



## **It Was a Grand Easter Party!**



Heartfelt thanks to all of you who helped with the Easter Party for the HomeFront kids and their moms. If you helped in any way by attending the party or donating Easter candy, plastic eggs, or snacks, know that your contribution made many little ones and their mothers very happy!



## Camp Johnsonburg Summer Camp Scholarships

Every year Covenant provides scholarships to assist with the cost of a summer camp experience at Camp Johnsonburg for our kids. The Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center provides Christian education in a beautiful setting in Hope, NJ. Camp activities include: Bible study, swimming, boating, and archery among others.

If you plan on enrolling your child there are funds available so please contact either Karen Pennypacker or Linda Anthony with questions or see Karen or Linda to pick up a Scholarship Request Form.

**Deadline is May 20.** So be sure to apply! Visit their website at:

<http://www.campjburg.org/> From the website:

*Johnsonburg today is a place where city kids meet country kids, where black and white discover common ground, where the rich and poor of means and spirit are valued equally, and where each is encouraged to take another vital step toward realizing oneness in Christ.*



***What?***

ReNew: The Green Vacation Bible School

***When?***

July 18-22, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day

***Where?***

Fellowship Hall

***Why?***

At ReNew: The Green VBS kids will:

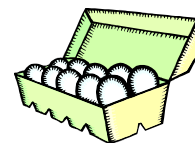
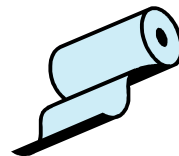
- Explore God's word through Jesus' Parable of the Sower.
- Learn about God's creation and what we can do to care for it.
- Meet members of our community who are stewards of the environment.
- Make new friends and have a great time!

***Watch for more information!***

## Beautiful Junk for ReNew: The Green VBS

VBS asks you to save the following gently used, clean items:

- Empty toilet-paper and paper-towel rolls
- Old greeting cards
- Envelopes
- Material scraps, ribbon
- Egg cartons
- Potting soil
- Seed packets (wild flowers, vegetable seeds)
- Shoe boxes, cereal boxes
- Clothespins
- Aluminum cans
- Plastic water bottles, glass bottles with narrow necks
- Paper bags, shopping bags
- Old muffin tins
- Twine, clothesline
- Cotton balls
- Empty, clean gallon milk jugs or liter containers
- Clean yogurt or margarine containers with lids
- Buttons, beads
- Drinking straws
- Old cotton socks
- Wax paper, newspapers
- Clean, gently used pillowcases
- Tape (duct, masking, and clear)
- Paper towels



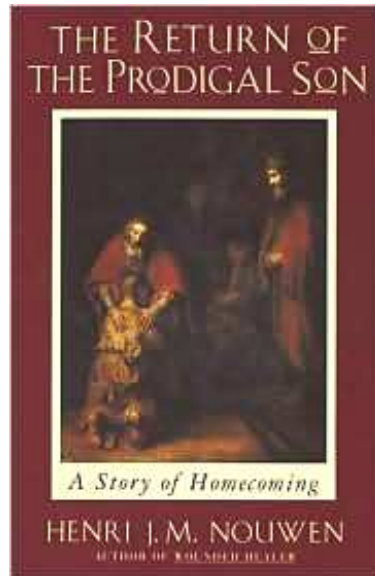
*Save your recyclables for VBS.*

*Please put them in the boxes marked VBS  
that will be coming in May.*

**THANKS! ReNew: The Green VBS**



# Spiritual Growth



***Wednesday, May 11, 7 p.m.***

The Book Study group will begin a discussion of the book, *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*, by Henri Nouwen. (pages through 88) The spiritual writer meditates on the parable of the prodigal son's return — a powerful drama of fatherhood, filial duty, rivalry and anger between brothers — and its enduring lessons for Christianity. Bring a friend!



***Sunday, May 15, 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.

### ***Tuesday, May 17, 1 p.m.***

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. Although brimming with mysterious symbolism, Revelation ultimately is a book of hope that sustains those who are oppressed.

This month's lesson is "*Diagnosing the Cries of Empire.*" The frightening images that come from the opening of the first six seals reveal to John's audience and to us the dangers of an unjust empire. Bring a friend with you!



### ***Wednesday, May 18, 7 p.m.***

Covenant's women's group, the Circle of Sisters, will meet in the lounge. The topic for May is "Who is Sophia?"

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

### ***Wednesday, May 25, 7 p.m.***

The Book Study group will continue to read and discuss *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*. Come and enjoy an interesting discussion of this important book. Bring a friend!



## Youth Corner

The spring has certainly sprung in our youth program. We have been busy bees over the last few weeks.

We tried a new event this year and it was a huge hit. A group of 15 of us enjoyed an afternoon of rock climbing, during which we learned a little bit about perseverance when tackling challenges and how to trust others to keep us from falling when we were being belayed.

The Senior Highs then traveled to Camp Johnsonburg, where we spent the weekend discussing “The Power of Prayer.” We learned that God doesn’t judge the way that we pray, he just wants us to communicate with Him in any way we are comfortable with. The youth did learn a little bit about the different ways to pray and different parts of a prayer. Each youth and leader made a set of prayer beads for guidance in prayer at home.

We spent the following regular meetings sharing some of our favorite songs that we feel describe how we approach life. The youth chose songs about keeping secrets, ignoring bullying, and just being “you.” I was very impressed with their choices.

The next weekend, we enjoyed some outdoor games in which we emphasized teamwork and just plain having fun. I feel this is such an important part of the program, as the youth find a space where they can be silly and let off some stress.

In May, we will make and sell chocolate-covered pretzels as a fundraiser for our summer mission trip. Please visit our table on Mother’s Day and buy some pretzels for Mom or for yourself! Either way, you’ll be helping to offset the costs of the trip and enjoying a yummy treat!

*Jessica Jaeger, Youth Minister*



## *Youth Group Calendar*

This month we will meet at Ewing.

*May 1*

Chocolate-Covered Pretzel Fundraiser 4-7:30 p.m.  
(Joint Event @ Covenant)

*May 8*

Sell Pretzels @ Coffee Hour, No YG, Mother's Day

*May 15*

Regular Meeting @ Ewing

*May 20 - 22*

Junior High Retreat @ Johnsonburg  
(No Senior Highs 5/22)

*May 29*

Regular Meeting or No Meeting, TBD (Memorial Day)

# Obituaries



## *Louise Berghuis Lee*

Louise Berghuis Lee, 84, a member of Covenant Church for more than 50 years, passed away Tuesday, March 29, at Capital Health System at Mercer.

Born in Trenton, Louise lived in Ewing until the death of her first husband, Forrest C. Berghuis, in 2000. Two years later, she married fellow Covenant member Walter A. Lee Jr., and the couple took up residence in Pennington.

Louise taught Sunday School and served on various commissions and committees. She and her family were instrumental in establishing the Covenant Memorial Prayer Garden. She also was a member of the Mercer Hospital Auxiliary, where she was devoted to the hospital's thrift shop, Mercer Mart, serving faithfully for 18 years until the mart closed in 2005.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to her husband, Walt; her son, David F. Berghuis, and his wife, Pat; her daughter, Chris; her stepson, Allen Lee, and his wife, Janet Pointsett; her stepdaughter, Barbara, and her husband, Gregory Driscoll; her stepdaughter, Audrey, and her husband, Richard Clarke-Pounder, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Covenant Church April 2, with the Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff officiating. After the service, Louise's ashes were distributed in the Memorial Garden.



## *Clara Mae Carlese*

Clara Mae Carlese, a long-time member, elder and deacon of Covenant Church, died April

11 at University Medical Center at Princeton, two days before her 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. She was a homemaker, a life member of the Pennington Road Fire Company and First Aid Unit Ladies' Auxiliary, and the Hollowbrook Senior Citizens. She was predeceased by her husband, Richard A. Carlese.

Clara Mae's survivors include seven daughters. Our Christian sympathy is extended to Beatrice Dore' and her husband Jules; Laura Longo and her husband Joseph; Susan Hughes and her husband Bryant; Clara Mae Caruso and her husband Vincent; Isabell Liverman and her husband Ray; Tina Lamb and her husband Bob; and Terri Whitlock and her husband David. Our Christian sympathy also is extended to her sisters, Beatrice Geolon, Margaret Gray and Rose Pecarski, and her 22 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held at Covenant Church April 15 under the direction of the Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery.



*Below are excerpts from letters from  
Covenant's mission partners thanking us  
for our ongoing support of their  
ministries.*

Dear Covenant::

Thank you for your donation of \$250 to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK). We are a private, non-profit organization and depend on charitable contributions to do our work.

TASK has a three-fold mission: The first is meal service. The second is to help our patrons achieve lives of self-sufficiency and the third is to make the greater community aware of our mission and our needs.

Thanks again for your support.

With gratitude, *Dennis C. Micai*  
Executive Director, TASK

Dear Pastor van der Weff:

Thank you and the members of Covenant Presbyterian Church for your generous contribution of \$375 in support of Interfaith Caregivers community-wide outreach ministry to seniors and people with disabilities.

Your generosity and support help to provide continued assistance to those who are servicing homebound, health-impaired persons.

May God continue to bless you and the members of Covenant as we continue to reach out to our neighbors in need.

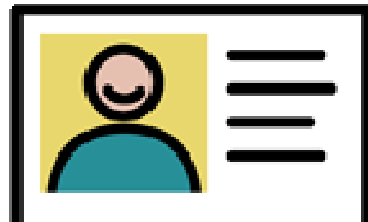
Sincerely, *Sara A. Thoma*

Dear Covenant:

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity – Trenton Area, I would like to thank Covenant Presbyterian Church for their gift of \$250. This contribution will make it possible for us to continue our revitalization work in the Trenton area.

Habitat for Humanity is working to build and rehabilitate decent, affordable housing in the poorest and underserved neighborhoods. Since its inception in 1986, Habitat for Humanity – Trenton Area has completed 84 homes. This is only possible because of thoughtful contributions from churches like Covenant.

Sincerely, *Patricia Hughes*  
Development Coordinator, Habitat for Humanity



## Community ID 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 ID, but are endorsed by the police departments of Ewing, Plainsboro, both Princetons, Trenton and West Windsor, as well as the Mercer County sheriff's and prosecutor's offices.



## *Angels' Wings Collection*

The Youth of Covenant are collecting items for *Angels' Wings*, a residential emergency respite care community home for children newborn to age 12. *Angels' Wings* is the only program of its kind in New Jersey. It offers a homelike, loving environment for the children 24 hours, 7 days a week. It is a unique, creative, compassionate program that embraces children, keeps siblings together, and helps them transition into their next placement. Their wish list: bed slippers and robes for "grandparents," baby blankets, toothbrushes and toothpaste, diapers and wipes, girls' underwear and "onesies." Please drop off items on Sundays at the boxes located at the front and rear of the Sanctuary, or you may drop them off at the church office during the week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### **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 May van drivers.



May 1	Jeff
May 8	Dave
May 15	Joyce
May 22	Mickey
May 29	Jeff

## *Serving at TASK*

*Thursday, May 26 at 2:45 pm*

The **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen** volunteers will be serving dinner on Thursday, May 26.

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, May 29*

Our **Food for Friends** collection in May will go to the food pantry at **TASK**. 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 TASK, 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.



## By Reason of Strength

*Sunday, May 22  
During worship*

Covenant Church will celebrate those who have “by reason of strength” reached the age of 80 or more. During morning worship on Sunday, May 22 we will recognize all members who have reached four score and more.

So, those of you who are 80 years of age or older, be on the look-out for your letter and return postcard so you can be the first to let us know whether or not you will be able to join the celebration. Call Rae at 609.989.8282 for more information.

*“ . . . but those who serve the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.”*

— Isaiah 40:31

*You are invited to a Concert  
by the Trenton Children's Chorus  
Tuesday, May 17 at 6:00 pm  
in the Covenant Sanctuary*



## May 2011 Birthdays



2	Jessica Jaeger	14	Katie Houghton
3	Kristen Edinger		Samuel Weigh
	John A. Murray	16	Angie Leamann
4	Marilyn Cavalucci	17	Robert Pollison
5	Diane Bocskay	18	A'leah Allen
	Mia Grace Donnelly	19	Jill Cherny
	Adele Drake		Annemarie Lamb
6	Jillian Paterson		Joshua Thackray
	Geneva Williams	23	Amanda Thackray
9	Kristen Jurczynski	24	Michelle Lamb
	Dorothy Miles		Darrell Washington, Jr.
	Jane Politi	25	Allison Velenger
10	Susan Andriana		Stephanie Velenger
	Jane Bogdan	26	Michael Clear
11	Christa Williams	27	Jonathan Pollison
12	Andrea Spillmann		Joseph Vigilanti
	Kevin Wehr	29	Barbara Pollison-Beck
		31	Christopher Thackray

*Deadline for the June newsletter is **Thursday, May 19**. Submissions received after the deadline will not get into the newsletter. Submissions may be dropped off, mailed or e-mailed to the church office.*



**By the Sea,  
By the Sea,  
By the  
Beautiful Sea!**

*Saturday, May 14 at noon  
in  
Fellowship Hall*

Become a table hostess for this year's fund-raiser **Tea By the Sea**, scheduled for Saturday, May 14 at Noon. Options to be a hostess this year are: 1) We will provide table cloth, centerpiece, chinaware cups & saucers for eight (or paper ware); you will provide tea pot. 2) You may bring your own china and accessories needed for your table as was done at last year's tea. Hostess duties include selling tickets for your table, provide one homemade dessert for our Venetian Dessert Table, and be the hostess to your table guests. (A simple list of duties will be provided to you.) Cost of regular ticket is \$20, but hostess ticket is reduced to \$10. Please contact Lorraine Metzgar, Jane Schwilk, Karin Zasoski, Joan Hodak or Cindy Moskow if you are willing to host a table and be part of a great afternoon of fun and fellowship!

*The Covenant Newsletter*

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Newsletter: Donna & George Amick