

The Covenant Newsletter



"My profession is to always find God in nature."

- Henry David Thoreau

August 2010

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 new and improved website lately, click on www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org to see what you have been missing. Here's a sampling of what you'll find:

- ▶ This newsletter (and you can find it online — in full color — before you get it in the mail) and an archive of past newsletters.
- ▶ The story of the 1950 cookbook.
- ▶ Letters from and news about missionaries that we support.
- ▶ More information about upcoming events.
- ▶ Late-breaking church news.
- ▶ Photos of past church events
- ▶ Links to other websites of interest.



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.

My prayer for 2010 is that we as a church, as leaders and congregants, intentionally and deliberately deal with our Mission Statement. This month, I focus on Christian love as the foundation behind our statement.

The apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 13: "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

We know Paul's appeal about love mainly from weddings, where it indeed fits very well. Yet Paul did not write it for marriage ceremonies, but intended it for the whole church.

Paul wrote this letter ca. 54 C.E. to the congregation in Corinth, Greece, that he had founded several years earlier. So this letter went to one of the earliest Christian churches. Paul begins his letter with a call to unity, and throughout the letter gives a roadmap showing how to reach unity, namely by being mindful of the greatest gift of all: love! The early Christian churches were founded to be loving and caring communities of faith.

It is difficult, if not impossible, for us to explain love until we experience it. It is hard to love until we feel loved. We ought to realize that love plays an instrumental part in growing through faith and maintaining our mission of encouraging a diverse worship family.

An important document of reformed Protestant religion, called the Westminster Catechism, presents as its first question "What is the whole duty of man?" That is, what is the whole duty of us, people of faith?

The answer is:

"To love God and to enjoy him forever."

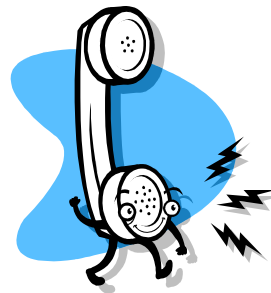
Being Christians means having high ethical standards, helping the poor and needy, and taking care of the creation. This all starts with the basic love and enjoyment of God.

We can only successfully implement our mission statement through intentionally transforming ourselves, if we have found the love and enjoyment of God. When we have found the empowering love God made for all of us, we are also called to spread that love out towards others. As Christians, we express love when we relate to one another. Love is how to show you are a Christian. "Then," in the words of the song, "they'll know we are Christians by our love."

May God continue to Bless our church family,

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.)

Rev. van der Werff will be away Aug. 23 through Sept. 5. In case of a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact the Rev, Nancy Schluter.



Our New Minister of Music

The Session has voted to hire Derek Cressman of Morrisville as Covenant's new minister of music. He will begin his duties as director of the Covenant Choir and Covenant Handbell Choir in September.

Derek is a 2003 summa cum laude graduate of Westminster Choir College with a bachelor of music degree in music education. In May 2009 he received his master of arts degree in music education from Teachers' College

of Columbia University. He currently teaches general music to grades 6 to 8 at William Penn Middle School in the Pennsbury School District, where he also directs the chorus and ensemble of the 7th and 8th grades and directs the spring musical.

At Ewing Presbyterian Church, Derek is bass/baritone section leader of the chancel choir, leads sectional rehearsals and is an occasional substitute director. He also serves as a substitute director of Ewing's handbell choir.

He has extensive performing experience with the Westminster Symphonic Choir under conductor Joseph Flummerfelt and has toured and recorded with the Westminster Concert Bell Choir under Kathleen Ebling-Thorne. He is an Eagle Scout and a member of Phi Kappa Lambda, the national music honors society.

We welcome him to the Covenant family. Our thanks to the search committee members: Carol Stawski, chair; Season Bonner, Trudy Dougherty, Pam Miller, George Self, Alice Wardlow and the Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff, that interviewed candidates and recommended Derek's hiring to the Session.

Spiritual Growth

Book Discussion

*Tuesday, August 10, 7 p.m.
at Pennington Presbyterian Church*



Thanks to all those who attended the Presbytery's July book discussion on the Great Emergence by Phyllis Tickle. There were eight congregations present and more lay people than clergy. We had a rich discussion about our hopes for the church in the 21st century, our understandings of what elements of church in the 19th and 20th centuries are on their way out, and how the Holy Spirit is the key to moving forward.

Join us on August 10 at the Pennington Church as we discuss "Traveling Together" by Jeffrey Jones - hopefully a tool for us to engage with the Holy Spirit as we move together as a Presbytery. The book is available for \$18 on Amazon. For the Alban Institute, Jones offers accessible tools for clergy and lay leaders to work together to grow disciples.

Take a look at Alban's website for more information. <http://www.alban.org/conversation.aspx?id=5892>

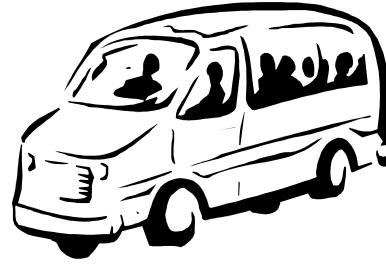
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



*Sunday, August 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!

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 August van drivers.

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



***Congratulations!
To Brian and Michelle Volz!***

Hannah Anne Volz was born on the Fourth of July weighing in at 7 lbs., 13 oz. The proud first-time grandparents are Cathy and Richard Volz.

Hannah Anne will be baptized on Sunday, August 15 by the Rev.



You are Awesome!

Peace once again reigns over the great savannah grasslands. Today, the silence is broken by the occasional roar of a waking lion... BUT NOT SO THIS PAST JULY! The sleepy savannah came alive with sounds, songs and voices of our own Covenant kids

and the many kids from our surrounding neighborhood.



We'd like to give a special thanks to all of the teachers and volunteers for being great and warm and wonderful! Tina Lamb and Melanie brought the Baobab Blast alive for the youngest children. Julie Miner, JoAnn Trevor and Linda Evrenoglou worked lovingly with the 1st and 2nd grades. We want to also thank Linda for the great openings and closing. Alice Wardlow and Jane Politi brought to life the daily stories for the 3rd and 4th grades. Debbie Peters, with her usual depth of caring, spent her mornings with the 5th and 6th graders. She was able to accomplish great things with the help of Matthew Post, Justin Murray and Caitlin Miner.

The Kalahari Crafts were cleverly executed by Cindy Moskow and Henrietta Williams. We owe a special thanks to Henrietta for the great African garb she made for all those who took part in VBS 2010.



Cindy and Henrietta were assisted by two great helpers, Molly Trevor and her friend Nicole. The games in the grasslands were outstanding, as Joyce Jaeger and her helper, Martin Scozzaro, filled the kids with excitement. If you listen carefully, you can still hear an echo of the rhythm of the music that Jessica Peters and her helper, Rachel Leichssenring, taught the children.



It was so special to have Jon Solomon (Jessica's son) a part of the Madagascar music. The gentle care of Jasmine Murray and the willing arms of many loving people made a safe little nest for Jon in the grasslands. Snacks by Kathy Pollison, Annmarie Lamb and Betsy Myndyllo were delicious. I'm still thinking about the great feast they made for all of us and for all of the parents on that last day. We want to thank Sue Powell and Lisa Jones for making sure we were all signed in and registered daily.

Kudos for all those who turned Fellowship Hall into a savannah grassland with its own Baobab Tree. When I told Craig Young what we were planning, I said, "It's said that only God can make a tree." He responded, "That's what you think. I can make a tree, too" -- and he did! Thanks also to Sharon Young, Julie Miner, Tina and Annemarie Lamb, Matthew and Melanie Post, Kathy Pollison, Alice Wardlow, JoAnn Trevor, Debbie Peters and Lisa Jones. Together, we created an amazing community.



All this was done under the watchful and caring eyes of our beloved pastors, the Rev Jan Willem van der Werff and the Rev. Nancy Schluter. We want to thank the Evangelism Commission for promoting us in the parade. Oh yes, let's not forget Rae! Rae, we would not have been able to do it without you... thank you a thousand times!

Last but not least, we want to thank all of you who contributed snacks and supplies and money to help make the Baobab Blast, Covenant's 2010 VBS, a huge success. Covenant is truly an awesome place where great things happen.

The VBS Team

Mission News

Heifer Project 2010



Last year our children collected money for beehives. This year we're going for something bigger — trees. A gift of tree seedlings for one family is \$60. The sale of fruit and nuts can help a struggling family increase their income by 40 percent and even though they may only make \$175 a year, with the extra pennies, one day they can pay for a child's higher education. Please help our children raise money for this worthwhile endeavor by including your donation in the blue envelopes found in the church pews.

Serving at TASK

Thursday, August 26 at 2:45 pm

The **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen** volunteers would be happy to welcome anyone interested to join us on August 26. We meet in the 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 you'd like to go, please contact Donna Amick or Dave Kulp and let us know so we won't leave without you.





Food for Friends

Sunday, August 29

Our **Food for Friends** collection on August 29 will go to a local food pantry. If you will not be in church that Sunday and would like to contribute, leave your non-perishable groceries at the church office marked "Food for Friends," and we'll see they are included.



New Alarm System

As many of you are aware, we have a new alarm system. Being a new system, it has frequently been activated by accident, sometimes because individuals assume the alarm is off in the middle of the day.

The alarm is always set on weekends and holidays unless you have made arrangements to have it turned off. Remember, all levels of the building are monitored. Also, having a key to unlock the door does not mean the system is not armed.

If you enter the building on a weekend or holiday, please do so at the church office door. When entering, check the keypad on the wall. If the red light is on, it means the alarm is on and you must enter your four-digit code to have access to the building. If you have questions about obtaining a code, please see Craig Young or email him at casmy80@yahoo.com or Mickey Reilly at reilly.mj@verizon.net

Obituary

Barbara Bearden Cieplechowicz



Barbara Bearden Cieplechowicz, a long-time member of Covenant Church, died at her home in Ewing Township on July 14 after a long battle with cancer. She was 54.

Barbara was a preschool teacher at Capital Health Children's Center, located at Covenant, for more than 20 years. She was a member of the Covenant Christian Education Commission and Building and Grounds Commission and was active in a wide range of other church activities, remaining so until the last few weeks of her life. She was an enthusiastic gardener and received frequent compliments for her beautiful flowers.

A memorial service was held in the sanctuary July 17, with the Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff officiating. At the family's invitation, friends and relatives wrote messages of condolence and hope in colored chalk on the sidewalk next to the Fellowship Hall windows before and after the service.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Barbara's husband, Mike; her daughters, Beth and Lisa; her brothers, Richard, Robert and Raymond, and Raymond's wife, Lisa; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Bill and Thelma Glazebrook; her brother-in-law, Jeffrey Cieplechowicz; her nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, and other loved ones.

A Bouquet of Thanks!

Many people from the congregation were moved to spruce up certain areas of the church in remembrance of Barb Cieplechowicz.

Craig Young and Lorraine Metzgar hung the new window valances in Fellowship Hall. Alice Wardlow, Karin Zasoski, and Lee Metzgar weeded and planted new flowers in the front flower bed as you enter the church. Julie Miner and the gardening crew weeded and spruced up the Prayer Garden. George McClain had been watering the flowers all week. Cindy Moskow contributed to the flower bed with flowers, mulch and dirt.

Ginny Ryan and her crew coordinated the luncheon that was provided after the Memorial Service; Lorraine Metzgar, the Young family along with Rae Richardson and her friend, Eloise Gundy prepared Fellowship Hall; and the congregation as a whole provided the food, as well as love and support to the family. We will miss our beloved Barbara in so many ways and this was a small token of our love for her.



Covenant is Going Digital!

The Covenant Newsletter will be available to most of you on the Internet only, beginning with the January 2011 issue. To make this change, which will save postage and office supply costs, we need information from you. Please check the appropriate box and mail to the church office at 471 Parkway Ave., Trenton NJ 08618, or place in the offering plate on Sundays, or e-mail to Rae at 471covenantrae@comcast.net You may also call the church office at 609.989.8282

- 1. I will access the Newsletter at the Covenant website
www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org
- 2. Send my Newsletter by e-mail to (e-mail address)

- 3. I do not have Internet access. Send my Newsletter by mail.
- 4. I will pick up my Newsletter at church.
- 5. I no longer want to receive the Covenant Newsletter.

New Information for Church Directory

We plan to have a new church directory at Start Up Sunday in September. If you have a change of address, telephone number and/or email address, please fill out the form below and mail to the church office at 471 Parkway Ave., Trenton NJ 08618, or place in the offering plate on Sundays, or e-mail to Rae at 471covenantrae@comcast.net You may also call the church office at 609.989.8282 with any changes.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail Address _____



August 2010 Birthdays

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



*Deadline for the September newsletter
is Tuesday, August 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.*

Covenant Presbyterian Church
471 Parkway Avenue
Trenton NJ 08618

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

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Sunday School Start Up
Sunday, September 13
Call 609.989.8282 to register

or

Visit our web site at
www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org

Dated Material
Please Deliver Immediately