

# The Covenant Newsletter



*"A mother is like a vine in a vineyard . . . fruitful and full of branches . . ."*  
—from Ezekiel 19:10

May 2010

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 new and improved 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:



- ▶ This newsletter (and you can find it online before you get it in the mail) and an archive of past newsletters.
- ▶ An up-to-date prayer list.
- ▶ The Johnsonburg wish list.
- ▶ Letters from and news about missionaries that we support.
- ▶ More information about upcoming events.
- ▶ Late-breaking church news.
- ▶ Photos of the Irish Tea and the February Retreat
- ▶ Photos of Jacob Smith, newborn son of Hehsun and Andrew.
- ▶ 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 church, as leaders and congregants, intentionally and deliberately deal with our Mission Statement. This month, I will reflect on the word: diverse.

Diversity is celebrating the members in our church who are 80 years or older on **By Reason of Strength Sunday** (Psalms 90:10), on May 2. It is honoring our mothers and women in the **Women's Service** on May 9. It is realizing on **Pentecost**, May 23, that the Spirit is poured out on *all* the people who were speaking in other tongues, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities, socio-economic status, level of education, age, different or non-existent religious background, as the Spirit gave them ability (Acts 2:4).

May 16 is **Multicultural Sunday**, according to the calendar of our denomination, the PC(USA). On that Sunday during worship, Covenant will host Westminster Presbyterian Church, which calls itself a 'Multicultural, Multigenerational, Multimedia Urban Church, Serving Trenton since 1898.' Located on Greenwood Avenue, our brothers and sisters of Westminster church went through a decades-long intentional process of becoming the church of and in their community and neighborhood.

In 2006, Westminster won the PC(USA) Multicultural Church story contest, and is therefore now a national example in our denomination for being a multicultural congregation that intentionally recognizes, celebrates and incorporates the gifts of a diverse membership:

✦ In worship (utilizing languages, art and diverse theological expressions).

✦ In leadership and ministry (power sharing in session, church committees and decision-making processes).

✦ In evangelism (providing the good news in a cup that people recognize with great appreciation and sensitivity to their cultural and traditional backgrounds).

See their winning story at:

<http://www.pcusa.org/multicultural/contest/winners-westminster.htm>

Following the service we will enjoy educational time during an informational meeting with the Westminster leaders as well.

I am looking forward tremendously to these important and uplifting worship services in May.

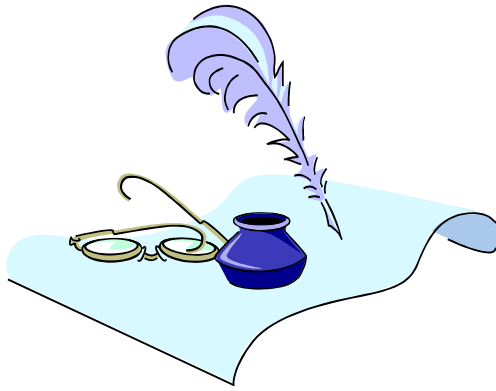
May God continue to bless our journeys!

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.) In a pastoral emergency, please call 609.989.8282.



# Session Notes

At its meeting April 20, the Session:

- ▶ Accepted the resignation of Elder Maria Wehr.
- ▶ Placed Adele and Vincent Cherny on the inactive roll at their request.
- ▶ Accepted the resignations of Vera Petrow Young as clerk, Vince Cherny as treasurer and Gary C. Young as memorial fund treasurer, effective June 14, 2010.
- ▶ Elected Carol Stawski as clerk, Michael Reilly as treasurer and Julie Miner as memorial fund treasurer, effective June 15, 2010, to complete the terms of the officers who resigned.
- ▶ Approved the March 31 treasurer's report showing income of \$121,053.16 and disbursements of \$107,375.47, for a balance of \$13,677.69.
- ▶ Elected George Self as Presbytery commissioner to fill the vacancy created by Vera P. Young's resignation.
- ▶ Was informed that Linda Cossaboon has resigned as chairperson of the Worship and Music Commission and that Rev. van der Werff will assume the co-chair responsibility.
- ▶ Was informed that Maria Wehr has resigned as head of the Sacristy Committee effective May 24, 2010, and that Rev. Dr. Nancy Schluter will assume the responsibility of coordinating the committee.

▶ Was informed that Robert Trevor and Virginia Ryan will co-chair this year's Nominating Committee, replacing chairperson Sue Powell.

▶ Was informed that the Caribbean Association of Mercer County is a newly formed group that will meet at Covenant on the third Saturday of each month; that Rev. Schluter will coordinate the group with the assistance of the Evangelism and Outreach Commission; and that the group will have a table at the Trenton Heritage Days celebration.

▶ Was informed that an informational meeting about the upcoming commitment ceremony will be held after worship Sunday, May 23.

▶ Was informed by the Building and Grounds Commission that the lead paint abatement project has been completed; that recent expenses have included more than \$5,000 for boiler repair, tree removal and office porch repair; that four trees still need to be removed and that rotted basement window frames need replacement as funds become available; and that Sean's Landscaping has submitted an estimate of \$1,650 for removal of the playground equipment and cement footings, but that the commission recommends against pursuing this project at this time.

▶ Was informed that Carol Kuykendall will coordinate this year's church picnic, set for June 27, for the Congregational Life and Fellowship Commission.


▶ Was informed by the Christian Education Commission that the Sunday School will begin a new program to raise funds for the Heifer Project.

▶ Authorized Christian Education to conduct fundraisers for scholarships for summer camp at Camp Johnsonburg.

▶ Was informed by the Evangelism and Membership Commission that Covenant will have a table on the church grounds during the July 4 parade to distribute Vacation Bible School information and that the church van will participate in the parade, with young people handing out flyers.

▶ Was informed by the Mission and Outreach Commission that the Presbytery will host Rev. Tomeh, a missionary from Lebanon, who will speak at different sites on the church in Iraq and the Middle East, and that ECHO will host a luncheon gathering May 14.

▶ Was informed by the Worship and Music Commission that May 16 will be Multicultural Church Sunday, with the Rev. Karen Hernandez-Granzen, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, as the preacher, and with an informational meeting with Westminster leaders after worship.



**Pentecost Sunday** *May 23*

Pentecost Sunday marks the birthday of the church, as told in the book of Acts, when the Holy Spirit descended “like a mighty wind” upon the assembled followers of Jesus.

There is an ancient tradition in the Christian Church of baptizing new adult members and accepting new confirmands into the congregation on that day. We will pay homage to that tradition by baptizing Jon Solomon Smith-Peters and introducing the members of the confirmation class and the new members who have decided to join us at Covenant on Pentecost Sunday.

Remember to wear something red, the traditional color of Pentecost, which represents the “tongues as of fire” by which the Holy Spirit was said to have touched each of the early Christians in the room.



## Spiritual Growth

*Wednesday, May 5, 7 p.m.*

The second in the Radical Presbyterianism series, "Radical Worship, That's Right, I Said Worship!" This series is led by Rev. van der Werff and Rev. Toby Sanders of Beloved Community. It examines our shared heritage to show how the roots of truly faithful Presbyterianism affords us a rich resource for building bridges across the chasms that often separate Christians of different traditions and ethnicities and keep us from recognizing our common heritage.

*Wednesday, May 12, 7 p.m.*

Book Study "Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus." Join us in the lounge for this study. (See [www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org](http://www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org) for more information on this book.)

*Sunday, May 16, 7:45 a.m.*

The men of Covenant will meet for breakfast and discussion. All men are invited to come and bring a friend!

*Tuesday, May 18, 1 p.m.*

The Women's Bible Study, "Joshua, a Journey of Faith," will continue in the lounge. All Covenant women (and their friends) are welcome.

*Wednesday, May 19, 7 p.m.*

Circle of Sisters, Covenant's women's group, will take part in a talk over tea in the lounge.

*Wednesday, May 26, 7 p.m.*

Book Study "Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus." Join us in the lounge for this study. .



**Revive!**  
**2010 Trinity Cathedral**  
**801 West State St**  
**June 11 - 13**

Revive! is a gathering and celebration for followers of Jesus, taking place over the course of one weekend in June. The events begin on Friday evening and end with a celebration on Sunday afternoon. The Revive weekend will be a time for people who are tired of fighting the culture war, of letting our differences - theology, class, race, denomination - get in the way of our yearning to be a beloved community marked by unity, not uniformity. It's a new conversation about being passionate for both Jesus and justice, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus engaged in the world with the prophets' cry for justice.

For more information please visit the website at [www.revivejustice.org](http://www.revivejustice.org) or become a "friend" of Revive Justice on Facebook.



## Youth Corner

If you haven't heard, the spring has been fresh and fun for the Covenant/Ewing Youth Program.

We kicked off the youth's spring break with our first annual Junior High Lock In. We had record attendance of 18 youth at this event where the youth spent the night playing sardines and capture the flag, playing board games like catch phrase and apples to apples, eating junk food,

watching the latest Twilight movie "New Moon", and eventually getting a few hours of sleep. It was wonderful to see the bonds of friendship blossom during this event. I can say that I am certain as I watched over 18 youth tucked in their sleeping bags that my loss of sleep for the night was worth its weight in gold. This group is so lucky to have such a support system of great friends to share in fun times like lock ins and to support them through the turmoil of adolescence and everything else life brings.

Following the Easter holiday, we had an outdoor game night where the youth enjoyed kick ball and capture the flag on Ewing Presbyterian's lawn. Again we had a great turnout of 15 youth and they all left with smiles on their faces.

After a regular meeting continuing our faith in movies theme the youth will partake in an annual favorite, the miniature golf outing to Pine Creek, to round out the month of April.

In May, please support our fundraiser on Mother's Day and enjoy some Chocolate Covered Pretzels. The proceeds from this fundraiser will help reduce the costs of our Spring Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg May 14-16. Some families are unable to afford the rising costs of this weekend retreat and any assistance we can provide will help allow as many youth as possible to attend. Of course we're sure you'll enjoy the chocolate covered pretzels, too. Don't forget to share them with the mothers in your life!

Unfortunately, May also means the close of youth group for the year. I'm disappointed to see the year coming to an end and wish all the youth a great summer. I look forward to kicking off again in the fall!

*Jessica Jaeger, Youth Minister*



## **May Youth Group Schedule**

**This month we will meet at Covenant**

Junior Highs 4:45pm

*Senior Highs 6:00 pm*

May 2 -Make Chocolate Covered Pretzels 5:00-7:00pm

May 9 -Sell Pretzels after Worship --No Youth Group  
(Mother's Day)

May 14 -16 - Junior. High Retreat at Camp Johnson-  
burg



## Upcoming Events

More information is available at [www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org](http://www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org)

### *Sunday, May 2, after worship*

Vacation Bible School teachers and helpers will meet following the worship service in the Drake Room.

### *Sunday, May 9, 10:30 a.m.*

On this Mother's Day, we will honor not only mothers, but all the women of the church with a special service led by the women of the church.

### *Sunday, May 16 after worship*

Multi-cultural Church information meeting and workshop with Elders and the Rev. Karen Hernandez-Granzen of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

### *Sunday, May 23, noon*

Last month the session approved that our pastor, Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff, officiate at a commitment ceremony in the sanctuary later this year.

What this is and is not you can hear at an informal informational meeting with the pastor following the worship service and coffee hour.

The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Rev. D. Paul La Montagne, will be present as well.

***Sunday, June 13, after worship***

Have you ever thought of becoming Head Usher? Head Ushers serve the church by preparing the sanctuary on Sunday morning. Being Head Usher is therefore a critical and spiritually rewarding way of preparing for worship.

Please come to a training with Head Usher-coordinator Marcia Szedula and the Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff following the worship service June 13. We look forward to seeing you there.

More Info: [marcia.szedula@dol.state.nj.us](mailto:marcia.szedula@dol.state.nj.us)

Or: [jwvanderwerff@comcast.net](mailto:jwvanderwerff@comcast.net) ph. 609-989-8282

## **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 May van drivers.



May 2      Dave  
May 9      Jeff  
May 16     Joyce

May 23     Mickey  
May 30     Dave



## A Thank-You

Dear Pastor van der Werff:

Just a quick thank-you to Covenant Church for thinking of Mobile Meals when you were deciding what to do with the extra lilies and hyacinth plants you had after Easter. What a welcome surprise to find a phone message from Carol Stawski on Monday morning, indicating that you would like our clients to enjoy these flowers.

I went over first thing and picked up the beautiful plants. Our drivers delivered them to 14 of our clients and I'm told the clients beamed from ear to ear. Sometimes surprises are what make a person's day — and you made the day for 14 of our clients. They were so pleased to know that someone thought of them and cared enough to send the very best! For them, it was like a delivery from the florist on a special occasion.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness in remembering our clients. They are very special people and are most grateful for any and every thing that is done for them, especially at this time of their lives when they are homebound. May you be blessed abundantly for your thoughtfulness.

With appreciation and gratitude,  
*Sister Kathleen Purser, GNSH*  
Executive Director,



### **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**

The **TASK** volunteers would be happy to welcome anyone interested to join us on May 27. 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 let us know so we won't leave without you. You can call Donna Amick , Dave Kulp at the church office at 609.989.8282.

### **Food for Friends**

Our **Food for Friends** collection on May 30 will go to Phoebe's Pantry at Bethany Presbyterian Church. 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.



## WELCOME *to Our Newest Members!*

Eighteen new members will be welcomed into the Covenant family during worship service May 23, Pentecost Sunday.

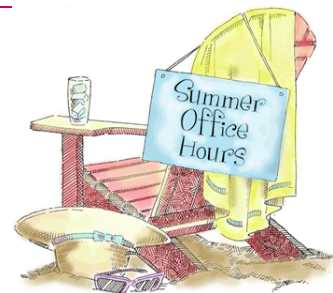
Ten of the new members are graduates of our latest confirmation class. Each had a mentor from the congregation. The confirmands, with the names of their mentors in parentheses, are: A'Leah Allen (Sherri Washington), Anne-marie Lamb (Barbara Brezak),

Rachael Leichssenving (Joyce Jaeger), Alex Markley (Regina Schnerr), Caitlin Miner (Angie Leamann), Jasmine Murray (Karen Pennypacker), Justin Murray (Lee Metzgar), Melanie Post (Anne Self), Freddie Reid (Alice Wardlow) and Molly Trevor (Cindy Moskow). A hearty thank-you to all the mentors!

The eight remaining new members were in the pastor's recent New Members Class. They are: Jewell Hand, John Hand, Denise Holubowski, Matilda McKenzie, Betty Newberry, Elnora Harriette Williams, Rufus Williams and Craig Young.

We will have more information about all of our new members in the June newsletter.

**The church office will be  
closed on Mondays  
beginning May 3, 2010.**





## Personal Notes

To the Deacons:

There was a knock on my door on Easter Sunday. I walked over and opened the door and to my surprise and delight a Covenant member was there with a beautiful hyacinth! Words cannot express the joy this plant brings me each day. Thank you so much for the flower and for thinking of me.

Sincerely, *Catherine Barton*

Rev. Jan Willem van der Werff, Officers and Members:

Thank you for your prayers during my recent hospitalization. Your thoughtfulness meant much more than words can ever say.

Sincerely, *Jewell Hand*

Dear Fellow Congregants:

May the full blessing of our Risen Lord fill you with much peace, joy and love. Thank you for the church flowers and get well cards and visits I've received in St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center. I am recovering slowly, but hope to see you all in a couple of months or so.

Love to All, *Priscilla Smith Matthews*

Dear Fellow Members of Covenant Church:

Thank you very much for the phone calls, e-mails, visits, altar flowers and FaceBook messages. Amber is back at school and only has a few follow-up visits left.

It was very comforting to have all the thoughts and prayers while she had pneumonia. We are truly blessed to have such a loving church community.

Sincerely, *Barbara, Brad and Amber Beck*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The weeks since September have flown by, and it is hard to believe that Sunday, May 2, is my last day with you as a seminarian. I am grateful for the opportunity to minister with you. You have welcomed me and made me feel at home, and I have been blessed by your support and encouraging words. Thank you! I will graduate from Princeton Theological Seminary on May 22 and then set out to minister wherever God calls me. May God bless you and give you peace always.

Peace and joy,

*Donna McDaid*

**Come Sing with the Good  
News Choir  
Sunday, May 23**



Do you like to sing, but just cannot commit to a rehearsal every week? Then come and join us on Sunday, May 23 at 9:15 a.m.! The Covenant Good News Choir will practice and sing during the worship service that morning. This is something we do several times during the year. Carol



May  
2010

2	Jessica Jaeger	16	Angie Leamann
3	Kristen Edinger	17	Andrew Comisky
	John A. Murray		Robert Pollison
4	Marilyn Cavalucci	19	Jill Cherny
5	Diane Bocskay		Annemarie Lamb
	Mia Grace Donnelly		Joshua Thackray
	Adele Drake	22	Vincent Cherny
6	Jillian Paterson	23	Amanda Thackray
	Geneva Williams	24	Michelle Lamb
9	Kristen Jurczynski		Darrell Washington, Jr.
	Dorothy Miles	25	Allison Velenger
	Jane Politi		Stephanie Velenger
10	Susan Andriana	26	Michael Clear
	Jane Bogdan	27	Jonathan Pollison
	Arian Tretheway		Joseph Vigilanti
11	Christa Williams	28	Mary Blaze
12	Andrea Spillmann	29	Barbara Pollison-Beck
	Kevin Wehr	31	Christopher Thackray
14	Katie Houghton		
	Samuel Weigh		

*Deadline for the June newsletter is Wednesday, 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.*

**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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***Multi-Cultural Sunday***  
***May 16***  
***10:30 a.m.***

***Multi-Cultural Workshop***  
***After Worship***

*(see page 7 for details)*

***Dated Material***  
***al Please deliver immediately!***