

The Covenant Newsletter



“Autumn is a second Spring where every leaf is a flower”
— Albert Camus

October 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 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 (you can find it online — in full color — before you get it in the mail) and an archive of past newsletters.
- ▶ A list of food items for the TEAM service.
- ▶ Information about the World Food Day fast.
- ▶ Letters from and news about our missionaries
- ▶ Late-breaking church news.
- ▶ Photos of past church events.
- ▶ Photos of Alice and Betty's commitment ceremony.
- ▶ Links to other websites of interest.
- ▶ A complete list of lectionary readings for October.

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.



John Calvin 16 Century Portrait

What are you going to wear on the last day of the month? Before you read further, please stand up, don't look at this piece anymore, walk around the house, and figure out what you will be wearing on October 31.

OK, you walked around the house and have your answer, right?

First, most likely you figured out that the last day of October is always Halloween. So you came up with what you will be wearing on Halloween. I have no idea yet what I will be wearing on Halloween. In previous years I have been (hoo-hoo-hoo) Tigger, a pirate and Darth Vader.

Secondly, you just know that October 31 is Reformation Day, the day that Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the door of the Schlosskirche in Wittenberg, Germany, questioning church practices that had gone astray. (Like indulgences).

One of our reformed forbears, John Calvin, started out as a distinguished and quiet professor in Paris, France — until he preached a sermon challenging people to obey the Bible and not the church officials. The officials started to look for him so they could throw him into prison, or worse. Professor John Calvin fled the city dressed in the shabby clothes of a poor farmer.

Third, you could have found out that the last day of October is a Sunday this year. So, in the morning, you will dress up for church, for sure. When you look around Covenant on Sunday morning, you know this means different clothes for different people. The diversity of clothing on a Sunday morning is a wonderful statement that God has many different followers. We are indeed a diverse worship family.

So October 31 is Halloween and Reformation Sunday this year. Maybe to honor Calvin and all reformers, we ought to dress up as reformers. We have a few weeks to figure out what that might look like. Maybe as Calvin, we can dress up as a disguised reformer, that is, a poor farmer.

Turning to the Bible as Luther and Calvin persuaded us to do, we find these verses from Galatians 3:26-27:

“For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

With baptism, we not only receive a Christian name but also Christian apparel. Baptized in Christ, we are all wearing Christ. So whatever we wear, through our baptism we will be all right. Thanks be to God!

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 or e-mail him at jwvanderwerff@comcast.net. (Monday is his day off.) In a pastoral emergency, please call 609.902.0101.



Session Notes

At its September 21 meeting, the Session:

- ▶ Heard that the New Brunswick and Monmouth Presbyteries are considering sharing an Executive Presbyter.

- ▶ Heard from the Building and Grounds

Commission that the commission is assessing much-needed maintenance and upgrading of the church property. Painting, flood and drainage control and other needs will require financial assistance.

- ▶ Heard that the Rev. Nick Hatch is leaving Ewing Presbyterian Church. The leadership of our joint youth groups will need to be addressed.

- ▶ Heard hope expressed for another mission trip in 2011 or 2012 like the 2009 trip to New Orleans.

- ▶ Heard that the Prayer Bulletin Board has been installed, focusing on world hunger.

- ▶ Heard a suggestion that each commission take responsibility for one Coffee Hour each year to spread the responsibility.

- ▶ Heard that Advent activities are being planned on two Sunday afternoons: Lessons and Carols Service with Covenant and Trenton Children's Chorus on December 12, followed by our Advent Festival; caroling to shut-ins (youth) and to the neighborhood on December 19.

- ▶ Heard that a stewardship dinner is planned for Nov. 1.

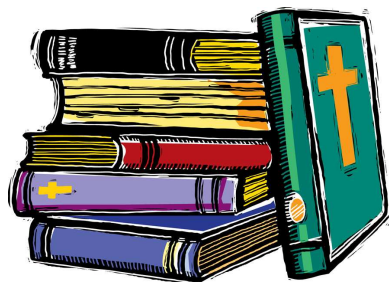
- ▶ Heard that the Mission and Outreach Commission is exploring a way of supplying photo I.D. cards for area people with no other means of identification. Systems to do this are in place in Princeton and South Trenton.

- ▶ Heard that there has been a request for boys' shoes, new or gently used, for our Jamaica mission.

- ▶ Heard that the Sacristy Committee needs a volunteer.

- ▶ Heard that the Evangelism and Membership Commission will have a table at Community Fest at TCNJ October 9 to provide publicity about Covenant Church.

Spiritual Growth



Wednesday, October 13, 7 p.m.

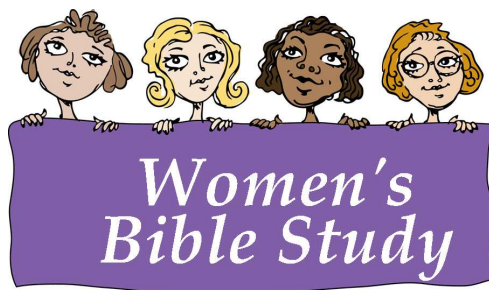
The Book Study group has begun a new year with two books simultaneously: *Christ of the Celts* by J. Philip Newell and *A New Kind of Christianity* by Brian D. McLaren. (For more information on these books, see the church website).

In *Christ of the Celts*, please read through page 60. In *A New Kind of Christianity*, please read through page 66.

Come and enjoy an interesting discussion of these two important books. Bring a friend!

Sunday, October 17 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, October 19, 1 p.m.

The Women's Bible Study group will continue its discussion of *Joshua, A Journey of Faith*, in the lounge. All Covenant women (and their friends) are welcome.

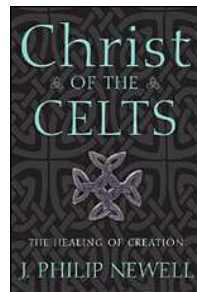


Wednesday, October 20, 7 p.m.

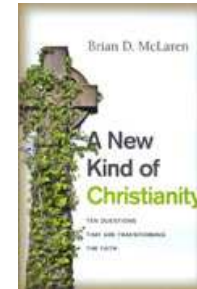
"Every evening I turn my worries over to God. God is going to be up all night anyway!"

The Circle of Sisters will meet in the Lounge. Come and get connected!

Wednesday, October 27, 7 p.m.



The Book Study group will continue its discussion of the two books, *Christ of the Celts* by J. Philip Newell and *A New Kind of Christianity* by Brian D. McLaren. Come and enjoy an interesting discussion of these two important books. Bring a friend!



ECHO Bell Choir



The ECHO Bell Choir is looking for a volunteer director, who must be available during daytime hours. Call Jo Carolyn Dent-Clark at 609.695.4151.

Upcoming Events

More information is available at
www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org



Saturday, October 9, 9 a.m. Health and Wellness Fair

“A different kind of health fair” will be held at Covenant Church/Beloved Community from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9. Activities will include health screenings and wellness demonstrations, health care information tables, health care employers, resume reviews, job search workshops, and activities for kids.

Sponsors are Epsilon Upsilon Omega chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Delta Upsilon Chapter, Omega Phi fraternity, and the Institute of Wonderful Women Working for Empowerment



Friday, October 15, 7 p.m. Marian Wright Edelman At Nassau Presbyterian Church

Marian Wright Edelman of the Children’s Defense Fund will give the second lecture in Crisis Ministry of Trenton and Princeton’s 30th anniversary series “Re-Imagining Charity.” Tickets cost \$20 and \$40, with proceeds supporting the Children’s Defense Fund, and may be ordered by calling 609-921-2135.

Welcoming Our Seminarians

Covenant's seminary interns for the 2010-2011 school year were commissioned during the September 26 worship service.

Hailey Braden Lynch, a Texan, expects to receive her master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary next May. She has a B.A. degree in religion from Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, with minors in comparative literature and German.

This past summer, Hailey was a chaplain intern at Capital Health Systems, Mercer Campus, providing pastoral care to the sick and visiting intensive-care patients, including infants, and their families. During the summer of 2009, she was an intern at Fourth Presbyterian Church In Boston, Massachusetts, where she led worship, preached and practiced pastoral care, taught all age groups, developed sermons and shared leadership in a children's outreach program. Her husband, Ben, completed his student work at Princeton Theological Seminary in May 2010.

Chelsea Williams of San Clemente, California, also is working toward her master of divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary. She holds B.A. degrees in history and religious studies from the University of California, San Diego, and spent her 2006-2007 school year studying at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Chelsea's work experience includes an internship at Bethany Presbyterian Church, Seattle, Washington, working with college students and young adults, and a youth internship at Trabuco Presbyterian Church, Trabuco Canyon, California, where she worked with students from the elementary school to senior high levels. During the last school year, she was an assistant swim coach at the Princeton Family YMCA.

Welcome, Hailey and Chelsea!



Youth Corner



It's that time of year again; youth group is back! It was so exciting to have everyone together at our first meeting and to introduce some new faces to the crowd. We had eight Junior Highs and 12 Senior Highs present, so I'm looking forward to having two good-sized groups to take part in the fun.

We're going to be exploring the theme "Faith and Music" this year by listening to some of our favorites and what's popular on the radio today. We're going to be looking for God in popular music, so stay tuned to see if we can find a glimpse of His message amongst the beat!

We'll also be participating in some of the same fun events from last year; the first will be a trip to Great Adventure for Fright Fest. We're sure to get spooked by the zombies and ghosts, or maybe on a roller-coaster. It's sure to be a fun night for all.

We'll also have service projects and retreats. We're planning a summer retreat or mission trip for the Senior Highs, and will be looking for support during fund-raising events to help offset the cost of whatever trip we decide to take. Our first fundraiser has been graciously handed over to us by Cindy Moskow; this year the youth program will handle the sale of Christmas Wreaths, so watch for this project in October and November. All in all, it looks like a great year ahead. I for one am really excited!

Jessica Jaeger, Youth Minister

October Youth Group Calendar

This Month we meet at Covenant
Junior High: 4:45 p.m. Senior High: 6 p.m.

Saturday, October 2

Award Winner Tom Chapin Concert
@ Ewing 1:30–5 p.m.

Sunday, October 10

Game Night

Sunday, October 17

Regular Meeting, Faith and Music

Friday, October 22

Great Adventure Fright Fest
Meet at Covenant @ 4:30 p.m.
(Look for Sign-Up/Permission Slip coming soon!)



Youth Group Holiday Wreath Sale

Please support the youth in their fund-raising efforts for our summer trip. We'll be selling wreaths during coffee hour from October 24 through November 14. The youth have taken over this activity for the first time, and will sell three different types of wreaths:

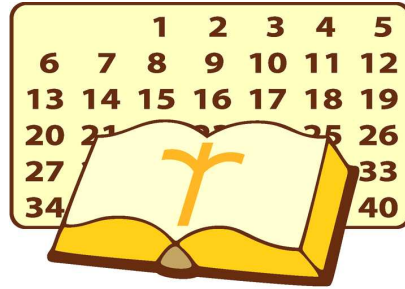
Classic Wreaths, \$18.50 each

Victorian Wreaths, \$22 each

Wintergreen Wreaths, \$23 each

Please visit our table to view our brochures and place your orders!

Adult Education



What is the Lectionary?

The lectionary is a pre-selected collection of scriptural readings from the Bible that is used for worship and study. Covenant uses the Revised Common Lectionary which follows the liturgical year in a 3-year cycle and provides scriptural recommendations that complement the current season of the liturgical year.

Why do we use the Lectionary as a basis for curriculum?

On Sunday mornings this year the Adult Education Study group and our Sunday School will use the lectionary as a curriculum. The lectionary readings for October are listed on the church's website.

Those in the Adult Study group who have wrestled together with the lectionary passage prior to Sunday worship report that worship has suddenly taken on a much greater depth of meaning. From the call to worship onward, they recognize how worship has been crafted to lift up the passages of the day in hymns, prayers, responses, etc. Most important, they can't wait to hear what the pastor's sermon has to say about those passages.

Moreover, using the lectionary-based curriculum in the classroom prepares the children and youth for full participation in the worship service. Because all ages focus on the same scripture passages, follow-up conversations at home are natural and easy in a way not possible when children, adults and youth focus on different Bible stories.

The lectionary is not a perfect Christian Education tool, but its strengths far outweigh its difficulties, and can bring a special vitality and wholeness to our entire congregation. The Adult Education Study group meets at 9:30 every Sunday morning in the Lounge. Why not get up a little early and join us?

Jane Politi, Director of Adult and Children Ministries

Write an Advent Devotion



The first Sunday of Advent is November 28. We all gain inspiration reading the devotions in the Advent Booklet each day as we go through December preparing for the coming of the Christ Child.

Please consider writing a brief devotion to be included in this year's booklet. Each meditation should be between 250 and 300 words. They usually include a scripture reference, and conclude with a brief prayer or prayerful thought. Think for a moment about a time when you were touched by God's presence in your life. Reflect on a favorite passage of scripture and share why it is meaningful to you.

Please take a moment in the next few weeks and write down your thoughts and reflections to share with others. We need to receive your devotion by Sunday, November 14. You may give them to Rev. van der Werff or any member of the Worship and Music Commission (George Amick, Season Bonner, Pam Miller, Carol Stawski, Marcia Szedula, Molly Trevor, Craig Young), or they may be dropped off at the church office, or e-mailed directly to Rae at 471covenantrae@comcast.net. You may also place them in the offering plate on Sunday in an envelope marked Advent Devotion.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The Worship and Music Commission



Peacemaking on World Communion Sunday

October 3 is World Communion Sunday, when Christians around the world gather to eat the bread and drink the cup offered by Christ, the Prince of Peace, and a day when we are mindful of our spiritual unity with Christ and each other. It is also the day when Presbyterians around the country receive the Peacemaking Offering.

In a world wounded by sin, God is at work offering healing, wholeness, justice and peace. Our Peacemaking Offering is one way we respond to God's call to be peacemakers, working for justice, reconciliation and peace so that all creation may experience God's love and peace--God's *shalom*. This offering provides funds to make possible our ministries of peace and justice within our selves, our families, our congregations, our communities, among nations and all of creation.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matt 5:9) *Please give generously to the Peacemaking Offering this October!*

Sandra Austin



Fast and Feast Weekend

Saturday, October 16, is World Food Day (WFD), a world-wide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-round action to alle-

viate hunger.

In an effort to increase our own awareness at Covenant of what it really is like to be hungry, and to be in unity with those working to alleviate hunger, the Adult Education Commission proposes that Covenant members fast from 6 p.m. October 16 to 6 p.m. Sunday, October 17, when the fast will end.

Members who agree to participate will not partake of solid food for that period of time. The fast will end with a celebration meal in Fellowship Hall, preceded by communion. Lee Seglem, a member of the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) board of trustees and author of "In Plain Sight: The Story of TASK," will be our guest speaker.

The Adult Education Commission asks Covenant members to inform the commission if they intend to participate. Forms will be in the church bulletin and can be placed in the basket at the back of the church. The commission consists of Jane Politi, Lorraine Metzgar, Karen Pennypacker, Alice Wardlow and JoAnn Trevor.

For additional information, including safe nutritional fasting guidelines, see Covenant's website at www.covenantchurchtrenton.org.



TEAM Food Drive “Feed the Hungry”

The Trenton Ecumenical Area Ministry is once again conducting its annual Thanksgiving food drive. The food collected this year will go to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and to Trinity Cathedral’s food pantry. TEAM will hold a special “Feed the Hungry” Thanksgiving service at 4 p.m. Sunday, November 21, at Trinity Cathedral to receive the food donations.

For many years, Covenant has been a faithful partner in providing food items for this annual event. We will be collecting donations on Sunday morning, November 14, or they may be brought to the office before Friday, November 19, when TEAM will be collecting them. (Be sure to mark them for TEAM!). A complete list of items needed can be found on our website www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org

Mobile Meals of Trenton/Ewing Needs Volunteers

Since 1973, Mobile Meals of Trenton/Ewing (MMTE) has been working with concerned citizens to provide nutritious meals and related services that promote the independence of our customers. We also offer that smile or encouraging word to many people whose interactions with others are often limited for health reasons.

Volunteer participation is critical for MMTE to achieve its mission. Meals are delivered five days per week. Volunteers are paired as drivers and runners. They serve as either regular volunteers (once per week) or as substitutes, who are called as needed.

We are in need of volunteers. If you can help, please call Michael Schaefer at 609.695.3483 or email volunteer@mmte.org For more information about Mobile Meals feel free to visit their web site at www.mmte.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 October and November van drivers.

Oct. 3	Dave	Nov. 7	Jeff
Oct. 10	Mickey	Nov. 14	Dave
Oct. 17	Joyce	Nov. 21	Mickey
Oct. 24	Jeff	Nov. 26	Joyce
Oct. 31	Dave		

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, October 28 at 2:45 p.m.

The **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen** volunteers — Donna and George Amick, Hedy Delaney, Irene Dransfield, Dave Kulp and Dave Ensminger, — would be happy to welcome anyone interested to join us on October 28. (Our summer helpers, Molly Trevor and Caitlin Miner, are back in school.) 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. Call the church office at 609.989.8282 to sign up.





Food for Friends *Sunday, October 31*

Our **Food for Friends** collection on October 31 will go Phoebe's 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 Bethany Presbyterian Church, write Phoebe's Pantry in the memo line, 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.



Fair Trade Coffee *Sunday mornings* *at Fellowship Hour*

The Mission and Outreach Commission will be selling Equal Exchange coffee at Fellowship Hour on two Sundays in October.

We now have several flavored coffees in addition to our usual selections. The ever-popular chocolate bars should be back later this month, and we are promised that there will be a couple of new ones.

Remember, all proceeds go to our mission partners.



Mission Report

Dear Pastor van der Werff:

Special thanks to you and your congregation for your recent donation to Mobile Meals of Trenton/Ewing. With the number of donations going down while the requests for subsidized meals increases, your contribution

comes at a good time. Each weekday, our volunteers deliver approximately 175 meals to clients who are unable to prepare meals for themselves, which enables them to maintain their health and continue to live in their own homes, thus avoiding premature placement in long-term care settings.

You all are a Godsend! May God continue to bless you all abundantly!

Gratefully,

Sister Kathleen Purser,

Executive Director, Mobile Meals of Trenton/Ewing

Dear Covenant Friends:

Thank you for your recent donation to NAMI Mercer. We rely upon gifts to help us educate the community and our members about mental illness, to provide mutual support and to advocate for our specific needs in Mercer County and for state and national issues as well.

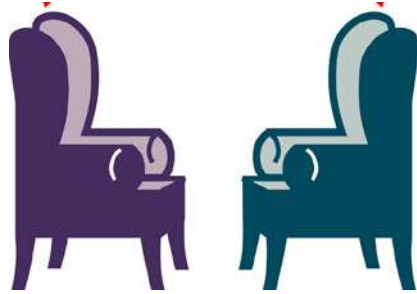
In 2010 we offered family-to-family classes with 34 family members participating. We continue to offer weekly support groups, and our HelpLine volunteers provide an invaluable service to callers in need of support and information. This year NAMI Mercer has been an active participant in a new initiative in the county to provide Crisis Intervention Training for law-enforcement officers in mental-health emergencies.

Sincerely,

Sally T. Osmer,

Executive Director,

NAMI Mercer



Thank You, Chair Painting Crew

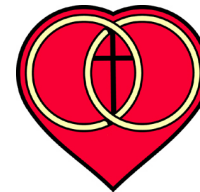
Our lounge has gotten yet another facelift, thanks to the generous donation of 35 chairs by the Princeton Charter Club, where Steve Moskow is the club manager. The Congregational Life and Fellowship Commission thanks Craig Young, Mickey Reilly, Steve Miner, Karin Zasoski, Robert, Molly and Brian Trevor, and Lee and Lorraine Metzgar for all their hard work. The chairs were sanded and painted and polyurethane was applied to give them a fresh appearance. Why not stop by the lounge and look them over?



Our Christian sympathy is extended to Gerard and Marilyn Cavalucci and their children on the death of Gerard's mother, Julia R. Cavalucci, of Hamilton Township, on September 3, at the age of 85.

Congratulations. . .

To Alice Wardlow and Betty Wiley, whose commitment ceremony was a joyous event at Covenant on August 7. You can see the photos at the church website, www.CovenantChurchTrenton.org.



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 will pick up my Newsletter at church.
- 4. I no longer want to receive the Covenant Newsletter.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail Address _____



October 2010

2	Rachael Leichssenring	15	Pat Romanowsky
3	Stephen Bogdan	16	Shirley Disler
	Stanley Lavis	17	James Disler
4	Kay Hildebrand	18	Kevin Dougherty
	Natalie Houghton	20	Clayton J. Christiansen
	Ruth Schumacher	21	Evelyn Laird
6	Keith Dougherty	23	Ruth Warga
	Alexander Medwick	24	Ernie Grenwelge
7	Neal Schumacher		Lorraine Kudelka
	J. Kent Shellenberger III		Meggin Christiansen
9	Elizabeth Steinouer	25	Anthony Visconti
10	Barbara Winn		Clara Sochalski
11	Richard Steinouer	29	Chris Haldane
12	Creston B. Lodge, Jr.		Regina Schnerr
	Janet Reese	31	Thomas Crum
13	Gabriel R. Lopez		
	Karen Romanowsky		

*Deadline for the November newsletter is **Tuesday, October 20.**
 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

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Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Nancy H. Schluter
Administrative Assistant: Rae Richardson
Newsletter: Donna & George Amick

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