



The Messenger

January 2013

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

January 2013

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This January we begin in earnest a *visioning process* where we seek to discern God's will in listening for our next important steps as a congregation. The previous strategic plan we have largely completed. We have successfully accomplished the Light the Fire Campaign. We are in the process of calling a new Associate Pastor who we believe will serve the church for many years. It is an exciting time.

So we enter into the time of discernment and strategic planning not as the world does but as the Kingdom of God does. We begin with a PRAYER INITIATIVE, asking for God to lead us and to speak. We engage in CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY, seeking important input from the congregation and believing that in the voice of the congregation we may also discern God's voice. We sponsor a HISTORY EVENT where we learn about important identity issues of the church, certain elements we want to keep and expand upon because they are an inherent part of whom The Church of the Covenant is. And lastly, we sponsor an entire day of VISIONING where as we discuss together the important things God has placed upon our heart, our priorities as a church emerge and we begin to see together the path God is placing before us.

I would hope...that we would focus our conversations on what we believe God is calling us to do regarding mission to our community. This does not exclude other matters, but I would hope what would emerge would not be a laundry list of 25 things, a veritable smorgasbord of items completely unrelated. (Parenthetically, we will have a "to do" list of simple things to accomplish that will be referred to the various staff and committees of the church to accomplish, so everything we discuss will be preserved). But I would hope that certain major themes and initiatives would emerge, rather than a laundry list.

I would hope...that we would set aside a certain cynicism that always accompanies "planning" in the church. As in, well, they really are not going to listen to me, nothing really is going to change, if I take the time to engage in this process nothing really is going to happen. **I will promise you this –the document that emerges from this process will not just gather dust in a file.** We will actually implement it and it really will be our focus over the next 3 to 5 years. You may trust me on this one. The promises we made related to Light the Fire, we have kept and will keep. Ditto for what we are now talking about.

In other words, it really is worth the investment of your time, your heart, your hopes and your dreams for what the church and our community can look like. We want you to participate in the prayer time, the survey, the history event and the visioning day. It really will make a difference for us and our community.

I have a simple philosophy where all such discernment and planning is concerned. I call it –**"SAY IT – DO IT – PROVE IT"**. We will clearly discern and say what we honestly believe God is calling us to do –SAY IT. We will then actually do what we have said we are going to do –DO IT. And then we will come back to the congregation to demonstrate to you how we have listened, and how our actions and our priorities are indeed consistent with what we have said we are going to do –PROVE IT.

I want The Church of the Covenant to make a profound difference for the Lord Jesus in our church, for our people, and for our community. I believe this is what God is placing before us for us to do and to be as a people. It is an exciting time.

Please make certain you take the time to become involved in the VISION of what God wants The Church of the Covenant to do. We will be "Hearing God's Voice" in January and February. That is ALWAYS exciting!

God bless. See you in church!
Faithfully, Dr. Stu Broberg

The Church of the Covenant

267 East Beau St.
Washington, PA 15301
724.222.0190

churchoftheco@comcast.net
www.churchofthecov.org

Worship Services
Sundays: 8:30, 9:43 & 11:00

Adult Sunday School and
Children's Sunday School

Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE FAMILY OF FAITH

Memorial Fund
Memorial Fund

Homer Prigg

Dave and Mary Jo Andrews
Bill and Betty Braun

Memorial Fund

Duane Hixon

Chris and Clarissa Lucas

FUNERALS***United with the Church Triumphant***

Homer M. Prigg, Jr. died on Sunday, December 16, 2012. A funeral service was held on Friday, December 21, 2012 at The Church of the Covenant with Rev. Dr. Stuart Broberg officiating at the church and Rev. Emily Miller officiating at the cemetery.

CHURCH CLOSING / CANCELLATION POLICY

Now that the inclement weather has arrived it seem like the appropriate time for a reminder! The church will be closed and Preschool will be cancelled any time the Trinity Area School District cancels classes. All meetings/activities for that day are also cancelled. Information will be posted on the website and sent to WJPA and other television stations for broadcast.

USHER TEAM 4 IS ON FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Barry Blose	Jay Gerchow
Pat Boyer	Barbara Reintgen
Harold Caesber	Dave Warne

LOVE IN A BASKET UPDATE

A big thank you to all the children who brought such lovely gifts to the Birthday Party for Jesus. We were able to FILL three baskets for the Love in A Basket Program. They were all sent on their way to moms and their babies before Christmas. Connie Hornickel, Hands and Hearts Co..

55 PLUS

The "Lunch Bunch" will not be meeting in January or February. Hope to see you in March!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHURCH OFFICERS**Elder: Class of 2015**

April Betzner Terri Grantz Jackie Koman
Sue Denmead Linda Grimm Brian Teagarden
David Taylor - filling a 1 yr. unexpired term of the class of 2013.

Deacon: Class of 2015

Chick Carlisle Audrey Hawker Diane Meek
Marna Day Erin Locy George Miles

Auditor:

Harold Caesber

Trust Fund Management:

Curt Koman

Nominating Committee:

Paula Lane Jim McCrory Bob Wagner
Dave McClellan Jean Phelan

Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Dottie Bowers Joe Donham Eric Myer
Jeff Legler Leslie Zajdel Steve Johnson, Chair

HANDS AND HEARTS

Hands and Hearts Committee will meet **Monday, Jan 21 in the Office Suite at 7 PM.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MEETINGS

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet **Wednesday Jan. 2 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor.**

Presbyterian Women Morning Circle will meet **Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 9:30 AM in the Parlor.**

COTC WILL BE HOSTING**"FAMILY PROMISE" DEC. 9 - 16**

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AND ALSO DONATIONS. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING. THE SIGN UP BOOK IS AT THE WELCOME CENTER.

EVENING CIRCLE UDATE

Make a New Year's Resolution! Join the Evening Circle! We will meet on **Thursday, January 10th at 6:15pm** in the Parlor. We are exploring a new Bible Study called **"Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles"**. This is a great time to join Presbyterian Women! Presbyterian Women are involved in Mission, Bible Study, Fellowship and so much more! We invite first-time participants; you can join us at anytime. Please call Linda at 724-228-5828 if you are interested or have any questions! We meet for one hour and refreshments are served.

Countdown to Visioning Day Strategic Planning at The Church of the Covenant

We encourage the congregation to fully participate in the process by which our church will identify the new directions in which God is leading us. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Sunday, January 6, 2013 *Prayer Initiative Guides Available*

Pick up your in-home prayer initiative guide following worship. We are beginning the process by asking for God's leading in prayer. Contact Gretchen Patterson from the Administration Committee for more information.

Saturday, January 12, 2013 *Prayer Initiative*
7:00 a.m. Saturday to 7:00 a.m. Sunday

Sunday, January 13/ 20/ 27th *Congregational Survey*

Opportunity to fill out congregational survey following worship. Also, have the opportunity to do the survey online. *Deadline for survey completion is Sunday, January 27th.* Elder Wil White is our transition consultant through the Committee on Ministry of Washington Presbytery.

Tuesday, February, 5, 2013 *History Event*
7:00 p.m. Covenant Center

People speak about the different eras of the church in order to generate greater understanding of who we are as a congregation/ people share what they are looking for in relation to pastoral skills and attributes of pastors.

Sunday, February 10, 2013 *Visioning Day*
One service, 10:00 a.m.

The Reverend Craig Kephart, Executive Presbyter of Washington Presbytery, preaches at one service. Followed by lunch in Covenant Center for all participants. Afternoon of discussions guided by Wil White, transition consultant.

Saturday, February 16, 2013 *Session Intreat (Date to be determined)*
9:00 a.m. to Noon

The Session takes the inputs from the congregational survey and the Visioning Day to draft three strategic initiatives for the church. The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee takes the inputs to complete its Church Information Form to inform its selection process.

Monday, March 4, 2013 Session Meeting 7:00 p.m. Session reviews and approves church strategic plan.

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

The APNC will attend the strategic planning events in order to hear the congregational discussions and inputs. We thank the members of the committee, elected by the congregation in October, for their service: Jeff Legler, Eric Meyer, Joe Donham, Leslie Zjadel, Dottie Bowers and Steve Johnson, Chair.

THOUGHTS ON THE VISIONING PROCESS

The Visioning process that we will be starting in 2013 provides an opportunity for our congregation to get together to jointly ask a lot of questions and do a lot of listening about our future. We need to discern where God might be taking The Church of the Covenant. That will require us to listen carefully to our friends and neighbors in our Church, since God often speaks to us through other people. I know that He has planned great things for us! All we have to do is open our hearts and minds to His voice.

~ Jonathan Pachter, Clerk of Session

As part of the "New Year" our congregation will have the opportunity to participate in the Visioning process, the process which will ultimately result in the long range strategic plan. My hope is that the congregation will actively participate in the visioning process and give guidance to our leaders so the church can develop a plan which will enable us to boldly step out, responding God's to direction. This will lead us forward as followers of Christ! My hope is that all will participate.

~ Elder Pat Boyer, Administration Committee



JANUARY PREACHING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 6, 2013

Communion

Dr. Broberg

THE MISSIONAL CHURCH

Hebrews 13: 7-16

“Jesus suffered outside the gate in
In order to sanctify the people through
His own blood.” v. 12

What does it mean to be a church that
loves mission to others more than
mission to ourselves? What would it
mean to be known in Washington as a
missional church?

January 13, 2013

Laity Sunday – Ministry Team Preaches

8:30 - Joe Donham

943 - Don Nixon

THE CHURCH NEEDS TO BE THE CHURCH

Matthew 5: 13-16

11:00 - Joe Jefferys

GOD HAS A BETTER OPINION OF YOU THAN YOU HAVE OF YOURSELF

Judges 6: 1-16

“The Lord is with you O mighty warrior.” v. 12

January 20, 2013

Annual Cong Meeting

Installation Elders/

Dr. Broberg

THE ROAD MAPS ARE GONE

Exodus 13: 1 ff. and 14: 1 ff.

“The Lord will fight for you, and you
Have only to be still.” Exodus 14: 14

How do we get to the Promised Land?
How do we do what God wants us to do
as a church? How do we get from the
wilderness to the Promised Land?

We will hold the Annual Congregational Meeting at NOON in the Covenant Center; receive reports; ordain and install Elders and Deacons at the 11:00 a.m. service.

January 27, 2013

Pastor Emily

FIND YOUR CALCUTTA

Matthew 25: 31-40

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it unto me.”

LAITY SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2013

When the Ministry Committee began we visited and prayed for members in rehab. Then we were challenged to visit members in the hospital. We also started doing in home communion to members not able to attend in person. Then we were given a new assignment of doing the pastoral prayer. Then we were moved to restart the healing service. From that God moved us to doing the sermon for the healing service. Now God is leading us further to do the actual Sunday sermon.

When if ever have you went to all three services? As you may know the sermons are pretty much the same sermon until now. On Sunday, January 13, 2013 the Ministry Committee will be taking charge of all three services and yes there will be three separate sermons with God's help and assistance. The 8:30 sermon will be done by Joe Donham. The 9:43 sermon will be done by Don Nixon. The 11:00 sermon will be done my Joe Jefferys. So now you may want to attend all three services to experience what God is leading us to talk about in three separate services. Won't you join us?



CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

There are still some envelope boxes in the Commons to be picked up. If you have any questions please call the office - 724-222-0190 x 12.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!

Check out all the events and happenings at the church online. The address is www.churchofthecov.org. You can download the Messenger by going to the Newsletter tab and then clicking on “Download the Messenger”.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Preschool registration for the 2013/2014 is upon us. Registration will take place on February 4th. Please call for a registration packet. On February 5th the community at large will have the opportunity to register their children. Registration times are from 9:00 to 1:00 in the preschool area. Don't have any children this age—Please continue to help spread the word about our church preschool! It is the place to be! Any questions please call Miss Camille here at church 724-222-0190 ext. 21 or at home 724-225-2947.

WELCOME CENTER CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED!!

Edna Grimm is the lucky winner of the Welcome Center Contest!! She was our top volunteer with 23 days of service as a volunteer on Sunday mornings. She will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Applebee's as a small token of our appreciation. Martha McNutt was our second highest volunteer with a total of 12 times and there were three others who each volunteered 8 times: Connie Hornickel, Carol Hissom and Sherri Valentine. Many thanks to EVERYONE who helped, and remember we need volunteers to sign up for 2013!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BABY JESUS! What a wonderful time to celebrate the birth of our King—our Savior—our Messiah—Emmanuel! All of that and it is a newborn baby and Christmas is His birthday! About 35 Sunday School children enjoyed some time all together in the Covenant Center on December 16th for a birthday party! There were games led by Beth Smith, and a delicious birthday cake created by Brandie Ewbank, and yummy cookies to decorate (and eat) baked by Jessica Hickman! The children and their families brought birthday presents to be donated to the “Love in a Basket” ministry of Hands and Hearts. Four full baskets were created to be donated to babies and their mothers who might not have the support of family and friends at a time when they need it. Thank you to other adults and youth who helped out: Lindsay Smith, Laura Smith, Paul Phillips, Rachel Phillips, Jeremy Zajdel, Robynne Moessner, Shirley Desmond, Kathy Brennan, Debi Nicolella, Madie Zajdel, Katelyn Nasser, Don Nixon, David Narigan, Don Nixon, and Kelly Proudfit. (and any others that I may have forgotten!)

FESTIVAL SUNDAY, December 23rd was a wonderful time of worship and fellowship! What a blessing the Covenant Kids Choir are as they shared “**MERRY CHRISTMAS! an experience in JOY, PEACE, LIGHT, and LOVE in JESUS!**” Miss Darla again is to be commended as she brought out the musical best in our young ones! **THANK YOU to the children** with the support of their parents and grandparents for making this presentation such a treat! Children participating were: Meghan Artuso, Abigail Bell, Katelyn Bell, Makayla Bell, Natalie Bell, Allison Ewbank, Emily Ewbank, Natalie Ewbank, Adeline Hickman, Emelia Hickman, Megan Kelley, Bethany Koman, Julianna Koman, Ellen McIlvaine, Mylia Pepper, Ada Rose Ralston, August Ralston, Shawn Sumney, and Cerena McBride. **THANK YOU to some very special support people** who work before and during to make it possible for the kids to be the very best they can be: Curt and Jackie Koman, Kenny Boswell, Ralph Farabee, Debi Nicolella, and Cyndi Barney.

FESTIVAL SUNDAY also includes a **LIVE NATIVITY** after worship, a wonderful opportunity to witness to the Washington Community a reminder of the true meaning of the Christmas season! **THANK YOU** to the following participants **Nicole Silbaugh, Katelyn Nasser, Lindsay Smith, Abby Dessart, Danny Kephart, Derek Hoover, Chris Edwards, Sam Day, John Day, Rachel Phillips, Luke Day, and Logan Hopkins as baby Jesus!** The animals (including Monti, the camel) were from the Barnyard Petting Zoo. A very special **THANK YOU to Bonnie Lushen** for making and donating new costumes for our Live Nativity participants!

FESTIVAL SUNDAY would not be complete without the warming comfort of hot chocolate on a cold winter day! **THANK YOU to Carol Hissom, Peggy Hays Nelson, and Anna Phelan** for making that available in the Commons!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL has been very busy since Rally Day. The teachers who have given time and energy to share God's love with our young ones are: Jessica Hickman, Julie Kelley, Jill Losko, Stacy Phillips, Bea Beabout, Laura Smith, Jeremy Zajdel, and Paul Phillips. Helpers and substitutes have been Nicole Silbaugh, Stephanie Silbaugh, Melinda Emery, Kelly Proudfit, Cathi Proudfit, Rachel Phillips, and Brandie Ewbank. (Please forgive me if I have missed someone.)

Attendance STARS are **Ada Rose Ralston, Megan Kelley, and Garrett Nassar for PERFECT ATTENDANCE!** The following have only missed one or two Sundays since Rally Day: **Adeline Hickman, August Ralston, Emelia Hickman, Brody Knight, Braeden Knight, and Zachary Losko.**

If you are feeling the call to help out in this ministry with our young ones, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me! There are many ways to help with Children's Ministry—I guarantee you will receive far more than you can imagine!

Janet Nevin, Director of Christian Education

(724-222-0190 ext 15)

jnevin@churchofthecov.org

OUR YOUTH IN 2013!

After a busy December involving a food drive, visits to seniors and a ski trip to Seven Springs, The Church of the Covenant youth will be settling into somewhat of a normal schedule for the first part of 2013.

Notable highlights include:

Weekly volleyball on Thursday afternoons in the Covenant Center involving our youth and their friends.

9Month Mission Trip training (Jan 12)--The second of a series of training teenagers to do outreach in their schools.

Youth Summit (Feb 2)--This Groundhog Day special event will involve youth from the Washington Presbytery in an intense training and motivational experience.

Keep praying for our kids...many are successfully inviting friends and we have many regulars involved from outside the church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (cont.)**ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 6, 2013!**

Did I say ALL Sunday School classes? ALL Sunday School classes include opportunities for youth AND adults!

COVENANT meets at 11:00 each Sunday morning and is led by Don Nixon. This is designed for youth in grades 9-12.

COVENANT JV also meets at 11:00 and is led by Audrey Hawker and David Narigan. This is designed for youth in grades 6-8.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP opportunities on Sunday morning begin at 8:45 with **Lessons in What Movies and Modern Literature Can Tell Us about Our Faith**—for the early risers OR those who have other leadership obligations OR for those who are just interested in a study of Christianity in our world of movies! **Jonathan Pachter** leads this journey into a look at movies and how Christian faith can be seen “between the lines.” Senior High Youth and adults of all ages will enjoy this look at movies and modern literature. This class will complete its study of **LORD OF THE RINGS** in January. The class will then move into **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**, a fine recent movie about the Crusades, religious intolerance, Christianity vs Islam just to name a few of the themes from the past which are quite relevant for today!

The Parlor Class meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 led by **Andy Kluczan**. They will begin a 12 WEEK study of **MIRACLES**. Have you ever wondered if Miracles happen today? Why not join this group to investigate?

Bible Study in the Parlor meets Sunday mornings at 11:00 led by

Dr. George Jones. This class will continue its study of **ACTS**. The book of ACTS written by Luke documented the spread of the Christian faith throughout the world.

Women’s Bible Study also meets Sunday mornings at 11:00 led by **Donna Carlisle**. They will be reading “Twelve Extraordinary Women: How God Shaped Women of the Bible and What He Wants to Do with You”, by John MacArthur.

One of the unique features of the Bible is the way it exalts women. Far from ever demeaning or belittling women, Scripture often goes out of its way to pay homage to them, to ennoble their roles in society and the family, to acknowledge the importance of their influence, and to exalt the virtues of women who were particularly godly examples.

You will be challenged and motivated by this poignant and personal look into the lives of some of the Bible’s most faithful women. Their struggles and temptations are the same trials faced by us today, and the God to whom they were committed is the same God who continues to mold and use ordinary women today. Come and be encouraged and inspired by the extraordinary God we serve.

Additional ADULT DISCIPLESHIP opportunities

Pat Sanders leads a small group **Bible Study at Strabane Trails** the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the 3rd floor sitting room. They will begin a study of **the book of James** in January. All are welcome, so if you know of a resident there, encourage them to participate!

Steve Warren facilitates a small group meeting Tuesday evenings beginning January 15th @ 7:00 pm in the Parlor. They will begin the new year with a study of CS Lewis’s **Space Trilogy**. Please contact Steve if you would be interested in joining this study. (724-225-2432)

A group completing the **Experiencing God** study will resume January 24th to complete the study. This group is led by Joe Jefferys and Joe Donham. If you were unable to participate in any of the Experiencing God small groups and are interested, please contact Janet Nevin. Another group could be formed if there is enough interest.

The **MID WEEK SPEAKER SERIES** will resume in January with Rev. Emily Miller leading a 4 week study of **SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES**. This study will be **TUESDAY EVENINGS** January 8, 15, 22, and 29 @ 7:00 pm. See the article written by Pastor Emily elsewhere in this Messenger for more details about this series. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about Spiritual Disciplines AND get to know Pastor Emily.

The **MID WEEK SPEAKER SERIES** will continue during LENT with **Dr. Jim Platt** returning for a 5 week series **TUESDAY EVENINGS** February 19, 26, March 5, 12, and 19 @ 7:00 pm. Look for more details in the February Messenger!

Monday Readers meet Monday afternoons to read and study together. They meet @ 1:00 pm here at the church.

FRIENDS OF JESUS has returned on Wednesday evenings. Under the excellent and dedicated leadership of Mary Alice Jones, Peggy Hays Nelson, Carol Hissom, and Denise Gibson, our friends from some of the local ARC group homes enjoy an evening of dinner and a Christian message using the Children and Worship stories.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION is a vital and important part of the ministry here at The Church of the Covenant. Studying the Bible and sharing fellowship with other Christians brings new meaning to our Faith Journeys—**no matter what our ages!!** Hopefully you can find an opportunity that fits your interests and your time schedule—either as a leader or a student! The children and youth programs are always in need of extra hands!

*Please contact me if you are feeling called to serve, even if you are not sure in what area or manner.

*Please contact me if you are feeling the need to learn more and don’t see something that interests you!

Why not make participation in a Christian Education opportunity one of your New Year’s Resolutions??

Janet Nevin, Director of Christian Education

(724-222-0190 ext 15)

jnevin@churchofthecov.org

JANUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS**Tuesday January 1**

Morning: Ps. 98; 146

Evening: Ps. 99; 8

Wednesday January 2

Morning: Ps. 48; 147:1–11

Evening: Ps. 9; 29

Thursday January 3

Morning: Ps. 111; 147:12–20

Evening: Ps. 107; 15

Friday January 4

Morning: Ps. 20; 148

Evening: Ps. 93; 97

Saturday January 5

Morning: Ps. 99; 149

Evening: Ps. 96; 110

Sunday January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Morning: Ps. 72; 150

Evening: Ps. 100; 67

Monday January 7

Morning: Ps. 46 or 97; 145

Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114

Tuesday January 8

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47; 146

Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114

Wednesday January 9

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47;

147:1–11

Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114

Thursday January 10

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47;

Ps. 147:12–20

Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114

Friday January 11

Morning: Ps. 46 or 47; 148

Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114

Saturday January 12

Morning: Ps. 46 or 97; 149

Evening: Ps. 27; 93 or 114

Sunday January 13

Baptism of the Lord

Morning: Ps. 104; 150

Evening: Ps. 29

Monday January 14

Morning: Ps. 5; 145

Evening: Ps. 82; 29

Tuesday January 15

Morning: Ps. 42; 146

Evening: Ps. 102; 133

Wednesday January 16

Morning: Ps. 89:1–18;

147:1–11

Evening: Ps. 1; 33

Thursday January 17

Morning: Ps. 97; 147:12–20

Evening: Ps. 16; 62

Friday January 18

Morning: Ps. 51; 148

Evening: Ps. 142; 65

Saturday January 19

Morning: Ps. 104; 149

Evening: Ps. 138; 98

Sunday January 20

Morning: Ps. 19; 150

Evening: Ps. 81; 113

Monday January 21

Morning: Ps. 135; 145

Evening: Ps. 97; 112

Tuesday January 22

Morning: Ps. 123; 146

Evening: Ps. 30; 86

Wednesday January 23

Morning: Ps. 15; 147:1–11

Evening: Ps. 48; 4

Thursday January 24

Morning: Ps. 36; 147:12–20

Evening: Ps. 80; 27

Friday January 25

Morning: Ps. 130; 148

Evening: Ps. 32; 139

Saturday January 26

Morning: Ps. 56; 149

Evening: Ps. 118; 111

Sunday January 27

Morning: Ps. 67; 150

Evening: Ps. 46; 93

Monday January 28

Morning: Ps. 57; 145

Evening: Ps. 85; 47

Tuesday January 29

Morning: Ps. 54; 146

Evening: Ps. 28; 99

Wednesday January 30

Morning: Ps. 65; 147:1–11

Evening: Ps. 125; 91

Thursday January 31

Morning: Ps. 143; 147:12–20

Evening: Ps. 81; 116

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

For prayer support or to join this ministry, call the church office. Please contact the Fellowship of Concern to give the names of those who are in need of prayer for health or other reasons. The names will then be called or emailed to the church members who pray daily for others. Prayer request forms are available in each pew. Completed



Prayer Chain forms may be placed in the offering basket on Sunday.

New time to man-up, men!

(Due to a conflict in staff schedules we moved this back a week.) Ben Evans will be hosting our next men's meeting at his home on **Wednesday, January 23 from 6pm to 9pm**. Our trial run at doing this last Aug. 1 was successful at Dick Crompton's place when 'seventeen guys showed up for an evening of food, fellowship and challenge. At the November Men's Retreat we agreed to go again and hopefully on a regular basis. We'll start with dinner and then get into an issue that we all can relate to and on which we need to move forward. More details will follow, but for now just put Jan 23 on your calendar.

MID-WEEK SPEAKER SERIES

The mid-week speaker series resumes with a discussion of spiritual disciplines with Pastor Emily Miller. Spiritual disciplines are things that we can do to bring us closer to Christ. If you would like to get closer to Christ in 2013, come and learn about how Christians have been doing this for centuries. There is no sign-up sheet for this class - just come as you are! Let's search for Christ together! Hope to see you there! ~ *Pastor Emily*

PACK THE PICKUP A SUCCESS

Many thanks to all of you who contributed food to the "Pack the Pickup" campaign December 16! We collected **1587 pounds** of food for the Greater Washington County Food Bank....**over 3/4 of a ton!** Our appreciation also goes out to First Presbyterian, 1793 and Friendship Community Church for their role in manning the various sites which included McDonalds on W. Chestnut, Dairy Queen on Wylie and Washington Auto Mall. The Auto Mall also supplied the three trucks for the collection sites. We also collected over \$2800 in cash donations! That translates into over \$14,000 in food they will be able to purchase. Our youth manned the Dairy Queen site and did a great job working the area to draw people into helping the drive. Nice job!

The one and only **Not-the-End-of-the-World New Years Party** was a blast as about 40 of us gathered to hear great live music, consume yummy food and experience great fellowship. We also whooped it up as the ball dropped and the noisemakers were maxed out by the revelers wielding them. One of the highlights of the entire event was Chick Carlisle playing his turtle shell as an extra percussionist along with the band members. Don Nixon brought us a short message on new beginnings from Isa 43:19 and Janet Nevin closed with a prayer circle just before midnight. God's blessings on all of you as we head into 2013!

CARS FOR FAMILIES

When you donate your car to Family Promise, it's passed on, free of charge, to a family who is successful in the Family Promise program. Family Promise of Southwestern Pennsylvania connects families experiencing homelessness with a network of local congregations and dedicated staff, all focused on providing them with shelter, meals, hospitality, and support until they are able to return to sustainable independent lives in their own homes.

Family Promise is currently hosting two families whose lives would be greatly improved by having a car of their own:

A two-parent family with 2 pre-school aged children. Both mom and dad are working and are juggling their work schedules and getting the kids to daycare all via bus.

A two-parent family with 3 children, one of whom has kidney disease and frequently needs to be seen at Children's Hospital.

At the time of title transfer, Family Promise provides written receipt of your vehicle donation, which will qualify you for any available federal income tax deduction on your contribution. For more information on donating your vehicle and changing a family's life, contact Laura Vincenti at 724-229-1129 or familypromiseswpa@comcast.net.



January Birthdays **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!**



Dolores Hardy	January 1	Thomas Hickman	January 14	Kim Carnahan	January 22
Dr. George Jones	January 1	Charles Bowers	January 15	Jerry Davison	January 22
Bryan Dickson	January 2	Susan McDaniel	January 16	Katelyn Nassar	January 22
Vickie Wilson	January 2	Joe Losko	January 17	Jean Stout	January 22
Mitchel Groszkiewicz	January 3	Richard Nevin	January 17	Jean Phelan	January 23
Christina Bowers	January 4	Andrew McIlvaine	January 18	Jean Day	January 24
Natalie Groszkiewicz	January 4	Paul Phillips	January 18	Judith DiGiovanni	January 24
Kylie Talerico	January 4	Alicia Wilson	January 18	Erin Georgalas	January 24
Nancy McCreight	January 6	Ellen Wilson	January 18	Keith Johnson	January 24
Steve Warren	January 6	Nicole Day	January 19	Milton Grantz	January 25
Bea Bebout	January 8	Donald Faust	January 19	Carol Hissom	January 25
Bob Wichterman	January 8	Vincent Garlisi	January 19	Jeremy Zajdel	January 25
Warren Briceland	January 9	Courtney Capo	January 20	Anna Locy	January 26
Preston Linck	January 9	Ron Cochran	January 20	Crystal Barr	January 27
David Warne	January 9	Lois Laird	January 20	Ryan Densmore	January 27
Albert White	January 9	Sally Corwin	January 21	Michael Hritz	January 27
Karen Simonini	January 10	Joycelyn Dean	January 21	Susan Key	January 28
Tammy Luchovick	January 11	James Bedillion	January 22	Joshua Ferguson	January 29
Edwin Moyer	January 13	Dottie Bowers	January 22	Erin Locy	January 31



THE CARNAHAN LIBRARY

Dedicated on 11/1/09 to the memory of Thomas Dorrington Carnahan II, Thomas Dorrington Carnahan III, George Kirk Carnahan and to the glory of God.

Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm



The following gently used books were donated by Sally Corwin in memory of her husband, Bill Corwin. (8 books)
John Adams by David McCullough. This book won the Pulitzer Prize in 2001 as well as 4 other major book awards. It is considered to be the best biography of Adams that has been written. The book not only covers politics, war and social issues during his adult life but also religion, love, human nature, friendship and betrayal. The author was born in Pittsburgh and is considered one of our best writers. *(An award winning miniseries based on this book was made. It is worth watching.)*

1776 by David McCullough. This book was written as a companion piece to John Adams. It tells the story of those who marched with George Washington in the year that the Declaration of Independence was written. They were men of every size and color that were farmers, teachers, shoemakers and mere boys. Washington had never before led an army into battle. As the weeks passed, defeat followed defeat until Washington launches a brilliant strategy that would change history. The book reflects that much is owed to a few.

Flags of Our Fathers by James Bradley with Ron Powers. The author's father, John Bradley, was one of the 6 soldiers who raised our flag on Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945. This book is about these six young men and what happened to each of them. One reviewer said that "...this (is) a powerful story of courage, humility and tragedy." Another said that it's "...a tale about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances." *(Two motion pictures based on the battle that took place on Iwo Jima were directed by Clint Eastwood. One is titled the same as this book and tells the story of the men that raised the flag. The other is titled "Letters from Iwo Jima" and tells the story of the Japanese soldiers that knew they would perish on the island.)*

Flyboys: A True Story of Courage by James Bradley. Once again Bradley has written a non-fiction book about WWII. The topic is about the young American men who flew bombing runs against Chichi Jima, the next island north of Iwo Jima.

The purpose of these bombing runs was to destroy the Japanese communications stations that connected the Imperial Headquarters in Tokyo with the troops in the Pacific. The book focuses on eight of these fliers who died at the hands of their captors. Until 1997, when the documents from a secret war crimes trial were declassified, the families of these boys didn't know what had happened to them.

The Greatest Generation Speaks: Letters and Reflections by Tom Brokaw.

After Brokaw wrote his first book about the greatest generation, he was amazed at the avalanche of letters that he received from that generation as well as their children. They shared stories about the heroism, values, friendships and pains of those times. They also described the effect his first book with its memories of the Great Depression and World War II had on them. Many felt that they had no audience until this second book was written. This book has also started dialogue between the greatest generation and their younger family members. The sections are entitled War Stories, Bonds, Loss, Faith, Love Stories, Appreciation, Children and Lessons.

Nothing Like It in the World: The Men who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869 by Stephen E. Ambrose. It's the story of the investors who risked their businesses and money, the politicians who understood its importance, the engineers and surveyors who risked their lives, and the immigrants, soldiers and other laborers that did the backbreaking work.

Ghost Soldiers: The Forgotten Epic Story of World War II's Most Dramatic Mission by Hampton Sides. In January, 1945, 121 members of the elite U.S. Army 6th Ranger Battalion slipped behind enemy lines in the Philippines. Their mission was to march 30 miles to attempt to rescue 513 American and British POWs who had spent 3 years in a prison camp. In telling this true story, the resilience of the prisoners is described as they endured starvation, diseases and torture.

Keep the Faith: The Steelers of Two Different Eras by Jim O'Brien. The author is from Pittsburgh and has written many books about different Pittsburgh sports teams and players. This one has chapters on key Steeler players from both eras such as Mike Webster, Jerome Bettis, Ray Mansfield, Ernie Holmes and Levon Kirkland. Interesting photos are included too. *iday theme*

**DEADLINE FOR THE February
MESSENGER
Is January 15TH!**

The Messenger

c/o The Church of the Covenant
267 East Beau Street
Washington, PA 15301
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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2012

OCC has had another successful year here at The Church of the Covenant. We were blessed to have packed 659 shoeboxes! Now the true work of this ministry begins. Through out the year our 659 “*gospel opportunities*” will be delivered to children all over the world! Their little faces will light up and their smiles will be huge when they see all of the goodies in their boxes. But our hopes & prayers are that they will also have smiles in their hearts when they receive the greatest gift that was packed in their box – and that is the love of Jesus Christ! You see, the shoeboxes are just a tool – a way of introducing the children to Christ. The material things in the shoebox won’t last long. The candy will be eaten, the toys will eventually break, the kids will out grow the clothes, the soap will slowly disappear, and the toothpaste will run dry. But the love of Jesus Christ will *never* disappear and *never* run dry. And if these children choose to accept Him as their Lord and Savior, they will **FOREVER** have the guarantee of eternal life with our Heavenly Father. That’s what OCC is all about!! Below is a recap of the OCC ministry for 2012 which gives a break down of how many boxes were packed in each age group.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>
10 - 14	137	157	294
5 - 9	67	117	184
2-4	<u>70</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>181</u>
	274	385	659

The Operation Christmas Child Team