



The Messenger

Jan.-Feb. 2012

UNITY IN CHRIST

Jan.-Feb. 2012

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Dearly beloved:

I've seen churches over the years get divided over things. These "things" at the time seem very important. But there is likely one "thing" (actually one person) who is far, far more important than whatever these "things" are. I know this will seem very elemental to people, as in, "Oh, we knew that already, Stu." But it is always amazing to me how quickly sometimes very wise people forget that **OUR UNITY IS IN CHRIST and WITHOUT HIM WE CAN DO NOTHING.**



Indeed, disagreements, frustration, anger, discord, etc. are all sure and certain signs that folks are disconnected from their Savior and Lord. When Jesus is present in someone's life there is peace; when He is absent there is no peace.

The book of Ephesians speaks of this. It notes, "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body is joined and knit together...(and) makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love." (Ephesians 4: 13-16) It is clear from this that our unity comes from Jesus and growing into Him. When we are unified in Christ there will be bodily growth—more faith, greater commitment, new members, etc. When we are not knit together in HIM there will be spiritual death and decline. We are to be "speaking the truth in love" and to "upbuild the church in love". Our language, regardless of how we feel, must be loving and not destructive. Our goal must be to upbuild the Body of Christ, to edify it, to make it stronger, not weaker, to bring it together, not to break it apart. Well meaning people speaking harsh words may nevertheless be destructive in their outcomes. Wanting to speak in favor of truth we may actually tear down the body rather than upbuild it. It is not so much about our intentions as it is about the actual outcomes—if our words hurt someone in the Body of Christ then we know we are disconnected from Him.

We are to "grow up"; we are to move beyond immaturity and move toward maturity in Christ. There is one faith and one body when we are as Jesus is—"with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love" (Ephesians 4: 2) we are to be "Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace..." (Ephesians 4: 3)

We need to be eager to maintain our unity in Christ. Because if there is no unity in Christ there is nothing else, either.

The Session invites the congregation to a dinner and information meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2012—dinner at 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m.—in order to become informed about issues presently facing the PC (USA). Please call the church office or sign up in the Welcome Center to make your reservations.

May our words that night be seasoned, like the meal we will share, with salt. May they be gentle words, edifying words, upbuilding words. And if we unwittingly say or do something that hurts someone in the Body, may we be mature enough to realize that, regardless of our intent when we said them, we need to apologize and set it right because we love the unity of Christ more than we love our self.

Blessings!

Dr. Stu Broberg

The Church of the Covenant

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Worship Services

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

Adult Sunday School

9:30 and 11:00 am

Children's Sunday School

11:00 am

Adult Education Class

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE FAMILY OF FAITH



Memorial Fund	<i>Nancy Brown</i>	Jayne Wilson
Music Department	<i>Edward Collins</i>	Charles & Dottie Bowers
Memorial Fund	<i>A. Kendall Johnson</i>	Paula DeMent.
Memorial Fund	<i>Laura Pellegrini</i>	Charles & Dottie Bowers
Memorial Fund		Debra Caldwell
Memorial Fund	<i>David Wilson</i>	Jayne Wilson

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

For prayer support or to join this ministry, call **Dona Hamilton (724-225-8560)** or 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 forms may be placed in the offering basket on Sunday.

DINNER AND MEETING—January 18th

Sign up at the Welcome Center or by calling the church office for the dinner and meeting, January 18th. Come enjoy a delicious dinner of creamed chicken over biscuits. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:00 for \$6.00. After dinner, hear a report from the Session representatives who have been attending meetings in Washington Presbytery. They will share information about the unsettling news that tends to focus on ordination issues. Stay informed about the background, the steps our Session has taken, the steps our Presbytery has taken, and likely developments unfolding in the not too distant future. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office so there will be PLENTY of yummy creamed chicken and biscuits!

USHER TEAM 7 IS ON FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Kim Carter	Del Mounts
Ginny Casper	Chuck Neff
Sandra Cincinnati	Earl Sharpnack
Tom Kearns	George Thompson
Robynne Moessner	

BAPTISMS

Caleb Benjamin Fisler, born March 30, 2008, and **Preston Lee Fisler**, born February 8, 2011, children of Ben & Kathy Fisler, were baptized on November 27, 2011 by their grandmother, Rev. Alice Fisler. **Liliana Elisabeth Capo**, born July 5, 2011, daughter of John and Cortney Capo, was baptized on November 6, 2011 by Dr. Stuart Broberg. **Sofia Rae Jacobs-Welling**, born September 26, 2011, daughter of Jolie Anne Jacobs and Thomas J. Welling, was baptized on December 24, 2011 by Dr. Stuart D. Broberg.

NOTES OF THANKS

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for your prayers, visits, cards, phone calls, and meals over the course of my mother's (Janet Hultz) illness and subsequent passing on to her heavenly home. What a blessing it was to receive such precious gifts of Christian love and concern during the Christmas season.
With great thanks, Ed, Stacy, Paul, and Rachel Phillips

Dear Friends and Prayer Warriors,
I cannot begin to express my appreciation for all the prayers, cards, and concerns for me during my surgery and recovery from my knee replacement. I would not have recovered as well, if it had not been for all of your good wishes and prayers. Prayer is a powerful help in times of illness, and I felt all the comfort from all of your prayers and caring. We have a wonderful caring church. Please continue to keep all who need lifted up to God for healing in your prayers. Many, many thanks for being there for me.
Love and Blessings to you all,
Betty Lou Engle

Many thank you notes have been received from members of the congregation who had gifts from the church delivered by our Deacons. All of them expressed their appreciation for the poinsettias, cookies, bulletins and Stu's sermon mixed with a bit of Christmas cheer! Thank you to Marge McWreath who faithfully bakes the cookies each year for our homebound members and to the Deacons for brightening the holiday season for them!

DEADLINE FOR THE March MESSENGER IS February 15TH!

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord...
(Psalm 121:1-2a)



I try not to overindulge in personal experience during my medical trials. However, the very fact I can write this gives me another opportunity to give thanks to God.

These words from this Psalm are, thankfully, part of the small aspect, which I remember, of my time in the ICU. I was hearing words more often spoken at a Witness to the Resurrection, but directly to me. Hearing these words of promise gave me incredible strength. These words have given me reason to give thanks. These words gave me the context of the vision I had of thousands of prayers interwoven together. These interwoven prayers which formed a net, enwrapping me and sending me hurtling back to more time here with you.

And as the psalmist further writes “The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.” v6 I was reminded of the glorious opportunity given to me to share this beautiful moonrise with my daughters.

None of us knows what tomorrow brings. But receiving hospice care certainly places a certain focus on life. While the word hospice my frighten many of us, it is clearly the best chance of allowing my lungs an opportunity to recover.

For me this has been a time to focus on the many blessings I have received. I want to thank you for the support we’ve received during my illness. Prayer, meals, cards, gift cards, and e-mails are all reminders of the incarnational nature of our relationship. And I appreciate the opportunity many of you have given me to rest, despite a strong desire to see me in person.

I will continue with the hospice process. It has the best chance of helping my lungs and allowing me to continue serving you. Obviously, this points to a slow recovery with many twists and turns. But as you hopefully will see, I will continue to support the different committees, pray and provide other pastoral care services via technology and other methods. I am also taking the time to write and reflect on many things which will be of benefit to the church.

I am also restrengthening my relationships with Becky, my children, Alex and Morgan and my parents. As with all of us, the reality is that our life is in God’s hands.

We do not know what tomorrow may bring, but we know we approach each day in the presence of Jesus. That is the true comfort we live in and through Christ. I feel blessed to serve Christ with you. May this be a time longer than any of us expect.

I will continue to update you with my situation as things become more clear.

Love,
Randy

NOTES FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Giving through 12/31:

	<u>Actual 12/31</u>	<u>Target 12/31</u>	<u>% Met</u>
- Pledged giving:	\$513,657	564,688	91%
Cash Offering	10,271	10,000	103%
Unpledged Offering	105,411	120,000	88%
Total	629,339	694,688	91%



Giving to the annual budget did not pick up as much planned. We still came close to fulfilling all obligations. We caught up on all per capita payments. In the mission area, we missed our giving target by approximately \$5000. On the positive side, we were able to fulfill enough pledges from the *Light of the Fire* campaign to pay off the second mortgage. All of the mortgages are now paid off and will greatly enhance the 2012 year.

We want to thank everyone for their support in this year!

JANUARY - FEBRUARY PREACHING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Preaching and Worship Schedule
January-February 2012 - Worship Committee
The Church of the Covenant



- January 15, 2012** **BRAVEHEART** Dr. Broberg
 I Samuel 17: 41-47
 "The battle is the Lord's..." v. 47
 In church battles we see ourselves as Scottish William Wallace battling the unbelievers. But perhaps we need a new way of looking at such matters/ Applying family systems theory to church differences.
- January 22, 2012**
Ordination/Installation Sunday
Dr. MAC AND A PROMISE WORTH KEEPING Dr. Broberg
 2 Timothy 4: 1-8
 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." v. 7
 The importance of making and keeping our ordination vows. The Holy Power in keeping our word.
- January 29, 2012**
Congregational Meeting
COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS; COUNTING THE COST Dr. Broberg
 Luke 14: 25-33
 "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost?" v. 28
 Once a year it is good to count our blessings; it is good to count the cost of turning our back on those blessings. The story of what happened in my home church.
- February 5, 2012**
Communion
#1 WHERE WE SIT IN COMMUNION Dr. Broberg
 Three Part Series on Judas
 Luke 14: 1-14
 "When you are invited...do not sit down in the place of honor..." v. 8
 It is very interesting where Judas sat at the Last Supper; the highest angel falls the farthest; the brightest angel falls into darkness.
- February 12, 2012**
#2 FORCING GOD'S HAND Dr. Broberg
 Three Part Series on Judas
 Luke 22: 47-53
 "Judas, will you betray the Son of man with a kiss?" v. 48
 Judas may well have been endeavoring to force Jesus' hand to declare Himself King and to throw out the Romans. Judas didn't realize his betrayal until this exchange in the Garden.
- February 19, 2012**
#3 THE SUICIDE OF JUDAS Dr. Broberg
 Three Part Series on Judas
 Matthew 27: 1-10
 "And throwing down the pieces of silver...he went out and hanged himself." v. 5
 Judas finally realized the enormity of what he had done; the first who truly realized who Christ was...but didn't realize He could forgive even Judas.
- February 22, 2012**
Ash Wednesday - 7 p.m.
Communion by Intinction
The Tableau –The Last Supper --"Is it I, Lord?"
- February 26, 2011**
1ST Sunday of Lent
Ministry of Music
HOW GREAT THOU ART
 Isaiah 45: 18
 "I am the Lord, and there is no other..." v. 18

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Dee Dee Hardy	Jan 1	Albert White	Jan 9	Nicole Day	Jan 19	Jean Day	Jan 24
Dr. George Jones	Jan 1	Karen Simonini	Jan 10	Don Faust	Jan 19	Judy DiGiovanni	Jan 24
Bryan Dickson	Jan 2	Tammy Luchovick	Jan 11	Vincent Garlisi	Jan 19	Erin Georgalas	Jan 24
Vickie Wilson	Jan 2	Ed Moyer	Jan 13	Cortney Capo	Jan 20	Keith Johnson	Jan 24
Mitchel Groszkiewicz	Jan 3	Tom Hickman	Jan 14	Ron Cochran	Jan 20	Milton Grantz	Jan 25
Chris Bowers	Jan 4	Charles Bowers	Jan 15	Lois Laird	Jan 20	Carl Hissom	Jan 25
Natalie Groszkiewicz	Jan 4	Jane Ann Songer	Jan 15	Sally Corwin	Jan 21	Brent Songer	Jan 25
Kylie Talerico	Jan 4	Susan McDaniel	Jan 16	Joycelyn Dean	Jan 21	Jeremy Zajdel	Jan 25
Nancy McCreight	Jan 6	Linda Naeser	Jan 16	James Bedillion	Jan 22	Anna Locy	Jan 26
Steve Warren	Jan 6	Joe Losko Jr.	Jan 17	Dottie Bowers	Jan 22	Ryan Densmore	Jan 27
Bea Bebout	Jan 8	Richard Nevin	Jan 17	Kim Carnahan	Jan 22	Michael Hritz	Jan 27
Bob Wichterman	Jan 8	Andy McIlvaine	Jan 18	Jerry Davison	Jan 22	Sue Key	Jan 28
Warren Briceland	Jan 9	Paul Phillips	Jan 18	Jean Stout	Jan 22	Joshua Ferguson	Jan 29
Preston Linck	Jan 9	Alicia Wilson	Jan 18	Jean Phelan	Jan 23	Erin Locy	Jan 31
Dave Warne	Jan 9	Ellen Wilson	Jan 18				

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kathie Hunnell	Feb 1	Lawrence Clutter	Feb 10	Melissa Sumney	Feb 15	Brad Bruce	Feb 22
Joe Murdoch	Feb 1	Grace Meighen	Feb 10	Hailee Agnew	Feb 16	Jane Goddard	Feb 22
Chris Lucas	Feb 2	Jam Murdoch	Feb 10	Korynn Agnew	Feb 16	Cindy Johnson	Feb 24
Greg Lyle	Feb 2	Nancy Neff	Feb 10	Betty Ferrell	Feb 16	Andrea Kluczian	Feb 24
Brian McDowell	Feb 2	Beth Braun	Feb 11	Rod Hardy	Feb 16	Carol Johnston	Feb 25
Gordon Wilson	Feb 3	Courtney Walter	Feb 11	Beverly Jochynek	Feb 16	Katherine Dessart	Feb 26
Donna Carlisle	Feb 4	Terri Grantz	Feb 12	Debi Nicolella	Feb 16	Denise Gibson	Feb 26
Barbara Lucas	Feb 7	Lt. Charles Bowers	Feb 14	Heidi Bury	Feb 17	Kathryn McCarter	Feb 26
John McCreight	Feb 7	Krista Costanza	Feb 14	Sarah Johns	Feb 17	Tom Pitner	Feb 27
John W. McCreight	Feb 7	John Artuso	Feb 15	Bill Payne	Feb 18	Tim Knight	Feb 28
Scott Day	Feb 8	Matt Henderson	Feb 15	Don Grimm	Feb 19	Barb Collins	Feb 29
Andy Kluczian	Feb 8	Taylor Potts	Feb 15	Caitlyn Myers	Feb 19	Rachel Gladden	Feb 29

EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle will meet on Thursday, **February 9th at 6:15pm** in the dining room. We will study the Beatitudes. 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.

WELCOME CENTER CHALLENGE!

We could use a few more volunteers to man our Welcome Center on Sunday mornings between services. Volunteer coordinator Peg Caesber has a challenge for you! Sign up at least 8 different times to be at the Welcome Center this year and you will be eligible to enter the drawing at the end of the year for a mystery prize. Volunteers are filling the timeslots quickly ~ who will the lucky winner be?

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES – JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2012

Everyone is invited to participate in the following missions of the congregation:

Blessings in a Backpack (10:30 AM @ Washington Park School, January 18 – March 21 – May 30):
Contact Diane Meek (724-503-4125)

Washington Christian Outreach (mornings of January 12 & February 9) – Contact Chuck Neff (225-7649)

Family Promise (formerly IHN) (Host Week – January 14 – January 21): Contact Rebecca Aizupitis (724-228-2684)

Habitat for Humanity – February 11: Contact Steve Johnson (724-503-4092)

Getting Ahead (every Wednesday): The graduates of the first Getting Ahead class are providing child care the class, so no help is needed!



PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Preschool registration for the 2012/2013 is upon us. Registration will take place on February 1st for returning and congregational families. On February 2nd 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. Even if you 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.

PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND **ROGER JOHNSON MEMORIAL**

We all know that money is needed at all times in our society for all kinds of things. Here at the Preschool we have this awesome outreach for families who want their child to experience a Christian learning environment. This outreach is in a form of a scholarship fund that was established in honor of Roger Johnson. Roger was a long time member of the Church of the Covenant and he served as interim Director of the Preschool. He loved children and the notion of educating them in a church environment. This is why the scholarship fund was endowed in his name.

The Preschool has kept this scholarship fund functioning now for 16 years. So how does it happen? We have sustained it with grant money, fundraising, and private donations. With this background, you can see it as our obligation to continue this scholarship fund in his memory. This funding allows certain families of need who would otherwise be unable to provide the type of early childhood education that we offer here for their child.

Won't you please consider a donation to this worthy cause? You may do so by calling me (724-222-0190 ext. 21) or simply mail or drop off a donation to the preschool.

I thank you for your consideration and support in this important aspect of this church's preschool.
Camille Braun, Preschool Director

BE READY FOR GOD IN 2012!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

"DITTO" to Miss Darla's thank you to the COVENANT KIDS CHOIR and their families for "The Perfect Gift." What a delightful message the children shared with our church family! We are indeed blessed!

Thank you to Miss Darla for her skills and musical gifts to make that day such a wonderful way to experience the Christmas story!

SUNDAY SCHOOL classes are continuing with a few changes in the teaching staff. Thanks to Janielle Plavi who taught the Kindergarten/1st Grade class for the fall term. Rod and Dee Dee Hardy are now teaching that class with the continued assistance of Brad Denmead. Thanks to Chris, Amy, and Carae Wagner, and Carol Yohe who taught the 2nd/3rd Grade class for the fall term. Bea Bebout is now teaching that class with the assistance of Laura Smith.

BE READY FOR GOD IN 2012 by studying His Word and by worshipping Him on a regular basis!

Janet Nevin
Director of Children's Ministry

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS FROM STACY PHILLIPS

After serving as the Youth Ministry Coordinator for The Church of the Covenant over the past year and a half, my time on staff has come to an end. Alex Miller will now be taking on a singular role as Director of Youth Ministry, on January 1st 2012, as I step down from my position. As you may recall, Alex Miller came on staff as Youth Director in August 2011, having been chosen by our Youth Director Selection Committee. What has followed has been a time of planned transition. I have had the privilege of mentoring Alex, along with our wonderful staff, during his first steps in youth ministry. This transition has been surrounded with prayers for our youth and their families, for Alex, for myself, for our youth leaders, and for growth in Christ for us all. I would encourage you to continue to pray for all these things, as our youth program continues to move forward and gain momentum in the new year. I am thankful for the opportunity I have had serving as Youth Coordinator for the Church of the Covenant. What a joy it has been to grow in faith, along side the youth of this church and their families. I look forward to new challenges, and to God's continued leading, as I soon become an ordained elder in the church this January.

Faithfully, Stacy Phillips

YOUTH INFO! - January - February

Greetings from Shift Youth Ministry as this January we launch our new year ministries! We have an awesome number of things planned for the next few months and we are so excited to get started. First we have our morning service, which is a discipleship lead class at 11 am to noon called, "Momentum". In these next 10 weeks we have a great discipleship opportunity to learn about how we can put our lives so *God* is first and *we* are second. If we could find a gently used arm chair to be used for this curriculum that would not need to be returned that would be great. We are also starting our senior high/early college ministry called, "Velocity" and our night service, "Kinetic" where we plan on putting our discipleship learning into action as we learn to live our faith out loud! Finally, we have a breathtaking retreat lock-in coming up Feb 17-18 that you don't want to miss!!! Be on the look out for more info as we come closer!!!!

Alex Miller, Director of Youth Ministry

Jan 15th

Contemporary Worship: 9:43-10:50
Momentum: 11:00-12:00
Kinetic: 6:00-8:00

Jan 22th

Contemporary Worship: 9:43-10:50
Momentum: 11:00-12:00
Kinetic: 6:00-8:00

Jan 29th

Contemporary Worship: 9:43-10:50
Momentum: 11:00-12:00
Kinetic: 6:00-8:00 BRING A FRIEND NIGHT!!!!!!!!!!!! Nerf Night!!!

Feb 5th

Contemporary Worship: 9:43-10:50
Momentum: 11:00-12:00
Kinetic: Join the millers at their house to watch football game!

Feb 12th

Contemporary Worship: 9:43-10:50
Momentum: 11:00-12:00
Kinetic: 6:00 – 8:00 - It's a special Guys and Gals night

Feb 19

Contemporary worship: 9:43-10:50
Momentum: 11:00-12:00
Kinetic: No Youth

Feb 26

Contemporary worship: 9:43-10:50
Momentum: 11:00-12:00
Kinetic: Artuso Swimming Please meet at Artuso's house
MS: 2-4pm HS: 4-6pm

ADULT DISCIPLESHP

As we move into the new year, please consider some opportunities to come closer to God by studying His Word! There are several options being offered.

SUNDAY MORNING - at 9:30 the Parlor Class is studying The Sermon on the Mount led by Andy Kluczan; at 11:00 the Bible Study in the Parlor is continuing a study of the Gospel of John led by George Jones; and also at 11:00 the Discovering Faith class is beginning a study of "God's Faithfulness" on January 22nd led by Steve Johnson. All are welcome to join these classes!

WEDNESDAY EVENING - beginning January 25th and continuing through February 15th Steve Warren will lead a class called "Heresies: Past and Present." (A heresy is a religious belief that is opposite to church doctrine.)

Future dates to keep in mind!

Dr. Jim Platt will be here Wednesday evenings during Lent to lead a study of John 13-17, "Jesus's Final Teaching with His Disciples." (February 29-March 15)

The Church of the Covenant will host the next event of the Three Church Series on March 3rd. Dr. Bonnie Thurston will lead a study of the issue of God's presence in difficult times.

MUSIC NOTES

Music Ministry Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, February 26, 2012, at the 11:00 AM service. The Covenant Choir and The Covenant Kid's Choir will sing, and The Jubilate Ringers will ring. New singers and ringers are welcome to join us for this special occasion. If interested, please see Darla, or any choir member. Watch Sunday bulletins for more details.

The **Covenant Choir will continue to rehearse on Thursdays at 6:30 PM**. We will prepare for Music Ministry Sunday, **February 26**, and the upcoming Lenten and Easter season. New members are always invited to sing with us.

Jubilate Ringers will ring on Music Ministry Sunday, **February 26 at the 11:00 AM service**. **Following is the rehearsal schedule:**

Thursday, January 19 5:30-6:20 PM
Thursday, January 26 5:30-6:20 PM
Thursday, February 2 5:30-6:20 PM
Thursday, February 9 5:30-6:20 PM
Thursday, February 16 5:30-6:20 PM
Thursday, February 23 5:30-6:20 PM
Sunday, February 26 9:45 AM

The Covenant Kid's Choir will sing during **Music Ministry Sunday on February 26 at the 11:00 AM service**. Rehearsals for this are as follows:

Sunday, Feb. 5 12-12:30
Wednesday, Feb. 8 5:30-6:00
Sunday, Feb. 12 12-12:30
Wednesday, Feb. 15 5:30-6:00
Sunday, Feb. 19 12-12:30
Wednesday, Feb. 22 5:30-6:00
Sunday, Feb. 26 10:30 AM

All children ages 3 through grade 5 are invited to sing.

THANKS FROM DARLA PEPPER-MILLER:

We have all heard the puzzles that ask, "How many (fill in the blank) does it take to (fill in the blank)." Well, I have a one that pertains to the Covenant Kid's Choir this past Christmas, and it goes like this: "How many people does it take to prepare for and present a musical for Festival Sunday?" The answer is, it takes 30+ children, parents, grandparents, church staff, church members, all of whom went above and beyond to make "The Perfect Gift" a wonderful, funny, and very special presentation. I want to thank the kids who were a delight to work with; the parents and grandparents who were faithful in bringing their kids to rehearsals, and who worked with the kids to learn lines and songs; the parents who helped with props, costumes and staging; the church members who did the artwork for the backdrop (Thank you, Lindsay Smith); the church staff who did all kinds of work to help ready the church and chancel area, typed the bulletin, and gave support; to Janet Nevin, who was an-ever present help and assistant; and to Rev. Stu Broberg, and all, who offered their prayers for us as we prepared for this time-consuming but well-worth-it endeavor. Words alone cannot adequately describe my pride and happiness to all for a job well done. I look forward to 2012, when we will prepare the kids for Music Ministry in February, Palm Sunday in April, and Festival Sunday in December. Watch weekly Sunday bulletins for rehearsal times.

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 book was donated by Mary Stewart.

Sundays at Tiffany's by James Patterson. This well known author writes a magical story about a love that transcends boundaries. Jane, the main character, was a lonely child whose mother only made time for her once a week. So she had an imaginary friend named Michael who is a part of her life until she's nine. Jane has turned into a lonely adult until she meets a man named Michael.

The following gently used book was donated by Betty Lou Engle.

Leaving by Karen Kingsbury. This is the first book in the "Bailey Flanagan Series". Bailey Flanagan has won an audition for the ensemble of a Broadway musical in NYC. But she worries about leaving family and friends in Indiana for the loneliness of the city. She also worries about her relationship with Cody Coleman. She is faced with big opportunities and even bigger decisions to make.

The following gently used book was donated by Betty and Dick Crompton.

Prophet by Frank Peretti. The main character, John Barrett, is a news anchor at a tv station. His life becomes complicated both at work and in his personal life. This book has plenty of action, suspense and a spiritual impact about the struggle over which vision of moral authority will define our nation.

The following gently used book was donated by Peg Flynn.

Fifty Acres and a Poodle: A Story of Love, Livestock, and Finding Myself on a Farm by Jeanne Marie Laskas. This is a non-fiction account of a writer who is living on the South Side of Pittsburgh when the book begins. She decides that she'd like to live on a farm and eventually finds a place in Scenery Hill. The other main character is Alex, her boyfriend. (It's a very readable book with mention of several areas that are familiar to us. There are two other books by the author in the library).

Recommended by Peg Flynn and Debi Nicoletta.

These gently used books were donated anonymously.

The Library Committee thanks the donors

Unlocked by Karen Kingsbury. Holden Harris is an 18 year old who is locked in a prison of autism. Holden is happy on the inside but in the outside world, he is bullied by kids at school who only see that he is very different. Ella, a classmate, is part of the 'in' crowd. One day she discovers that Holden and she were best friends as children. She decides to take a stand against the popular kids at the school for the way they bully Holden.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls. Walls writes a very revealing memoir about the way in which her siblings and she were raised by their parents. When her dad was sober, he taught his kids physics, geology and how to embrace life. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Their mother was a free spirit who totally disliked domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family. The 3 children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed and protected one another. It's a great read. Its sequel, Half Broke Horses is available in the library. (Recommended by Gretchen Patterson, Kay Snee and Barb Knight)

Rainwater by Sandra Brown. In this fictional account that takes place during the Great Depression, widow Ella Barron is determined that she will maintain the well-ordered life that she has build for her special needs son, Solly and herself. A new boarder, David Rainwater, changes her life forever. She finds that she relies on his advice and strong convictions.

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford. Henry Lee lives in Seattle and in 1986, goes to the Panama Hotel which had been boarded up for years. The owner has discovered the belongings of Japanese families who were sent to internment camps during WWII. Seeing these items reminds Henry of Keiko Okabe, a childhood friend who was interred. Finding this family's belongings takes him on a journey to revisit sacrifices he has made for family, love and country.

The Joyful Journey by Patsy Clairmont, Barbara Johnson, Marilyn Meberg and Luci Swindoll. These four gifted ladies are part of the Women of Faith conferences.

They speak straight from their hearts about the obstacles, bumps and detours we sometimes face along the journey of life and about how friendships, laughter, love and celebration can help steer our hearts closer to God. (*Several members of our church attend the Women of Faith Conference held in Pittsburgh last September.*)

The Downtown Jews: Portraits of an Immigrant Generation by Ronald Sanders.

The author tells the harsh, sometimes humorous, multifaceted story of the Americanization of the Jewish immigrant. The book centers on the life of a remarkable figure, Abraham Cahan (1860 – 1951), a journalist and novelist of the sweatshop and ghetto life. He edited a newspaper, Jewish Daily Forward, which at its peak had one of the largest circulations of any newspaper in America. This book was originally published in 1970 and revised in 1987. In 2009, it was selected as a 2009 Barnes and Noble Rediscovered book.

Thanks to everyone who took time to browse and select books during the Carnahan Library's Book Giveaway.

January SCRIPTURE READINGS**Sunday January 1**

Ps. 106:1-27
Col. 1:9-20
Luke 2:22-40

Monday January 2

Ps. 106:28-48
Eph. 4:1-16
John 6:1-14

Tuesday January 3

Ps. 135
Eph. 4:17-32
John 6:15-27

Wednesday January 4

Morning Ps. 131
Eph. 5:1-20
John 9:1-12;35-38

Thursday January 5

Ps. 78:1-39
Eph. 6:10-20
John 11:17-27;38-44

Friday January 6

Ps. 78:40-72
Rev. 21:22-27
Matt. 12:14-21

Saturday January 7

Ps. 88
Col. 1:1-14
John 6:30-33;48-51

Sunday January 8

Ps. 96
Eph. 1:3-14
John 1:29-34

Monday January 9

Ps. 137

Heb. 1:1-14
John 1:1-18

Tuesday January 10

Ps. 10
Heb. 2:1-10
John 1:19-28

Wednesday January 11

Ps. 150
Heb. 2:11-18
John 1:35-42

Thursday January 12

Ps. 94
Heb. 3:1-11
John 1:43-51

Friday January 13

Ps. 127
Heb. 3:12-19
John 2:1-12

Saturday January 14

Ps. 124
Heb. 4:1-13
John 2:13-22

Sunday January 15

Ps. 107:1-22
Eph. 4:1-16
Mark 3:7-19

Monday January 16

Morning Ps. 107:23-43
Heb. 4:14-5:6
John 2:23-3:15

Tuesday January 17

Ps. 72

Heb. 5:7-14

John 3:16-21

Wednesday January 18

Ps. 138
Heb. 6:1-12
John 3:22-36

Thursday January 19

Ps. 23
Heb. 6:13-20
John 4:1-15

Friday January 20

Ps. 65
Heb. 7:1-17
John 4:16-26

Saturday January 21

Ps. 63
Heb. 7:18-28
John 4:27-42

Sunday January 22

Ps. 144
Gal. 2:1-10
Mark 7:31-37

Monday January 23

Ps. 97
Heb. 8:1-13
John 4:43-54

Tuesday January 24

Ps. 123
Heb. 9:1-14
John 5:1-18

Wednesday January 25

Ps. 125
Heb. 9:15-28

John 5:19-29

Thursday January 26

Ps. 89:1-18
Heb. 10:1-10
John 5:30-47

Friday January 27

Morning Ps. 89:19-52
Heb. 10:11-25
John 6:1-15

Saturday January 28

Ps. 21
Heb. 10:26-39
John 6:16-27

Sunday January 29

Ps. 149
Gal. 5:13-25
Mark 8:22-30

Monday January 30

Ps. 95
Heb. 11:1-12
John 6:27-40

Tuesday January 31

Ps. 8
Heb. 11:13-22
John 6:41-51

**WOMEN OF FAITH**

I am happy to announce that we already have 47 signed up for the Women of Faith Conference next year, so we have reserved a second bus. Approximately 75% of the women who went this year have already signed up for next year and are bringing friends. What a testimony that not only do they want to go again, but they want their friends to share in the experience.

Ever think you are running on empty? Experience an emotional and spiritual renewal. The inspirational speakers are both funny and deeply profound. You will laugh, and you will cry, as these ordinary women share their touching stories. None of us have it all together, but with God nothing is impossible. Do something for yourself. Take a break from your everyday life and return refreshed, relaxed and renewed. Sign up today for the Women of Faith Conference next year and see how God can change your life!

Next year's event will be held on **September 28 & 29, 2012. Friday: 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Contact Donna Carlisle at 724-228-3616 or dcarlisle@comcast.net. A \$10.00 deposit will hold your spot. The total cost for the event is \$149.00, which includes the bus. After your \$10.00 deposit, \$91.00 is due by June 1, and \$48.00 due by August 1.

**Church Closing Policy and/or Other Emergency
Inclement Weather**

The following is a policy for when The Church of the Covenant activities and worship services would be cancelled due to inclement weather and the process for how that decision would be made. Factors influencing the decision include: the safety of the members of the congregation; the ability of staff members to report in; the ability to clear the parking lot and steps for safety reasons; whether there is power, light and electricity; whether roads are clear; the closing policy of Trinity School District; and other factors.

Sunday Mornings:

In the event that inclement weather is predicted and especially under the circumstances where many other churches are canceling their services the three pastors and the Clerk of Session would speak by phone and make the decision by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday the day before worship on Sunday. They would E-mail the Session advising them of the decision and the reasons for that decision.

The Church Administrator would contact the TV stations and WJPA for them to broadcast our closing as well as posting it on the church website. The church phone message then is updated with the closing information recorded.

If possible a sign is posted on the entry doors into the Commons area.

In addition to the Session E-mail, E-mails would be sent to the Deacons, the Fellowship of Concern, and the Director of Music would contact the choir, the Director of Children's Ministry would contact the Sunday School Teachers (asking them to call students), the Youth Advisors would be contacted (the young people contacted by the advisors).

Weekdays:

In the event inclement weather is predicted and where the Trinity School District has cancelled classes for the following day the pastors would speak by phone and also include the Director of the Preschool in the decision to cancel all church activities for the following day. The preschool has its own policy and that is to follow the closing schedule of the Trinity School district. The pastors would consult with the preschool Director to make certain the closing decisions are in agreement.

In the event there are activities of general interest, such as Faith Night, where many people might be coming and we would not necessarily know who intends to attend, again the Church Administrator would contact the TV stations and WJPA for them to broadcast our closing as well as posting it on the church website. The church phone message then is updated with the closing information recorded.

In the event there are activities of specific and limited interest, (say, just one activity scheduled or just one committee meeting scheduled) a phone call would be placed to the leader/ chair and they and the staff rep would be asked to make phone calls to likely attendees. We would not broadcast our closing where it would only have limited effect and direct contact would be more effective.



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