

The Messenger

March 2012

March, 2012

WALKING TOGETHER IN LOVE

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Dear friends:

All of our hearts are heavy with the passing of our dear friend and brother, Randy Boyer. After a long and heroic struggle with cancer the Good Lord received him into His everlasting arms this past week. At his amazing funeral service, a 52 voice choir sang, pastor friends participating, there were family testimonials, I preached about Randy as "*our wounded healer*" and how, like Jesus, he used his wounded-ness to help us and to heal our wounds. There are copies of the message, and CD's of the service, as well as selected copies of Randy's sermons available.

I know that we are all suffering a wounded-ness of the heart in this time. To be sure, we believe in the victory of eternal life for Randy and we know he is in a place where every tear is wiped away from our eyes and where sickness, sadness and death are no more. But we also will feel sad and down about the loss of such a vital person of The Church of the Covenant. These two things—feelings of both loss and victory—are how most of us, I am sure, are feeling at the moment.

But using Christ's example and also Randy's example, we can use this self-same wounded-ness to Kingdom advantage. Our wounds can also help to heal and transform those around us. Our wounds can make us even more caring and loving to others. One of the many, many gifts Randy has given us is the example of how to use hard things in life to help and heal others in Jesus' name. By His stripes we are healed; and by our stripes, our church and our community can be healed.

Some things to know...

I will be presenting to the Session on Monday evening a plan to vote Randy as our "*Associate Pastor Emeritus*" and to place a portrait of Randy in our Heritage Room, along with the many other great pastors of The Church of the Covenant. We will continue to encourage folks to contribute to the "*Boyer Trust Fund*" that will help Randy's daughters go to college as well as the *Randall V. Boyer Scholarship Fund at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*.

We are planning to host a three part *Grief and Restoration Event* led by The Reverend Dr. Hetz Marsh and his wife Barbara Marsh, on Tuesday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, March 25th at Noon following worship, and at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m. This is to help us as a congregation to process our loss and to afford us a good forum to discuss together and to pray together.

We plan on *sending a letter to the entire congregation* next week in order to keep everyone informed on the church plans, both to honor Randy and also to help us walk through this time of loss.

What a wonderful and caring congregation we have! I observed you reaching out to Randy and his family in so many loving ways. Let us now use that same love and caring to reach out to one another with the love and grace God is sending our way.

*We will be fine...*as long as we walk through this time TOGETHER and walk through this time with our hand in the hand of the Lord who loves us.

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

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

Rev. Edward DeLair

Memorial Fund

John & Emma Lee McMurtry

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

NOTE OF REMEMBRANCE

The church office recently learned of the death of **Donald M. Porter**, a former Treasurer of the Church of the Covenant. Don died on December 19, 2011 at the Masonic Village in Sewickley.

MEMORIALS FOR REV. RANDY BOYER

Memorials may be directed to the Boyer Trust Fund, established to help Randy's daughters defray educational expenses, or to a Student Scholarship Fund established at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in honor of Randall V. Boyer, or to one of three significant churches in Randy's life—First Presbyterian Church 1793, Center Presbyterian Church, McMurray, or The Church of the Covenant. Please mark on the memo line on your check where you would designate the memorial gift to be received.

EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle will meet on Thursday, March 8th at 6:15pm in the dining room. We will study the Beatitudes. We invite first-time participants; you can join us at any-time. Please call Linda at 724-228-5828 if you are interested or have any questions! We meet for one hour and refreshments are served.

USHER TEAM 1 IS ON FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Brant Barletta
Lou Barletta Jr.
Joel Braun
Brian Edwards
Chris Edwards

Jim Edwards
Don Faust
Homer Prigg Jr.
John Riddle

BAPTISMS

Baptized Sunday, February 19, 2012 at the 943 worship service, Preston Edward-Joseph Hoffman, infant son of Eric and Erin Condon Hoffman. He was born on October 7, 2011 and is the grandson of member Peggy Condon and her husband

NOTES OF THANKS

As part of the Light the Fire campaign the Sanctuary has had repairs to the plaster and the walls have been painted. It looks magnificent!! The work was completed well ahead of schedule and we will be able to observe the entire season of Lent with worship as usual! We were not certain if we would be in by Ash Wednesday or not, but thanks to the painting crew and some very helpful members of the congregation the sanctuary has never looked more beautiful. Many thanks to these folks who took time from their regular schedule to help put things back in order and made everything clean and shiny:

George Camlin, Don Cundall, Jerry Davison, Tom and Rachel Gladden, Jean Hanas, Skip Hornickel, Bob and Jillian Legler, John W. McCreight, Dennis Myers, Chuck Neff, Dick and Nancy Phelan, Barb Reintgen, Jean Stout and Peg Caesber who was instrumental in organizing this endeavor!

Jeff and Sheri Easter and Family in concert

Friday April 13, 2012

Time: 7:00 P.M. Doors open at 6:00 P.M.

Tickets in advance \$20 at door if available \$25

Ticket information 724-222-0190

Purchase tickets at <http://www.itickets.com>

Also at jeffandsherieaster.com

The Church of the Covenant Presbyterian Church
267 E. Beau St.
Washington PA 15301



**DEADLINE FOR THE April
MESSENGER
IS March 15TH!**

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SUNDAY**GOD SPEAKS, BUT DO WE LISTEN?**

What would happen if you learned how to truly
Experience God?

What would it feel like to be God-centered in our thinking and learned how to recognize God's will for ourselves, our families, our businesses, and our church?

Spiritual Renewal Taskgroup and Christian Ed believe it can be powerful and life changing. We know there is a deep hunger in the hearts of Christians to know and do God's will, so we invite every member of our church to take this journey together beginning on.....

Spiritual Renewal Sunday, March 18, 2012

There will be two services that Sunday – 9:00 and 11:00 with nationally re-known writer and speaker, Dr. Bruce Bickel.

In addition everyone is invited to the Renewal Brunch at 10:00 am. Signups will be available for this powerful 12 week program entitled “Experiencing God” which will run April 15thru July 1st.

The entire congregation will have an opportunity to participate in small 8 to 10 people groups meeting once a week at various times and locations to accommodate even the most difficult schedules.

Please join us as we delve a little deeper. Begin this amazing journey with a single step that will take us through Experiencing God and on to eternity!!

BRUCE BICKEL BIOGRAPHY**Character - Leadership - Respect - Teamwork**

Dr. R. Bruce Bickel is the president and founder of Transformational Leadership Group, a company he formed in 2003 to train audiences in character-based leadership. As a dynamic, motivational speaker, Dr. Bickel is committed to transforming the way leaders can achieve both individual and organizational excellence.

Drawing from over 30 years of experience in the military, the marketplace and the ministry, Dr. Bickel presents internationally to a variety of industries on topics such as ethical leadership, team-building, change management and effective coaching.

In addition to his public speaking career, Dr. Bickel also serves as senior vice president and managing director of PNC's Private Foundation Management Services, which is part of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. He actually designed and implemented this department in 2000, which offers counseling and administration to family foundations, now offered nationwide.

Known for his expertise in family counseling Dr. Bickel also serves as the company's principal spokesperson on the subject of raising children of affluence. He is a regular guest on business television and radio networks, including CNBC and NPR, and is frequently quoted in national business publications, and newspapers, offering child-rearing advice to wealthy families.

Dr. Bickel is a 1966 graduate of the United States Naval Academy where he received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He received the 1966 Midshipman of the Year Award given by the Annapolis, Maryland Chamber of Commerce as well as the Thompson Trophy, given to the graduating senior who has done the most to promote intercollegiate athletics at the Naval Academy. In 2000, he was the recipient of the H. John Heinz Community Service Award for his work in the Pittsburgh area. He is also a contributing author of the book ["The Power of Motivation"](#) and the soon to be published "Blueprints for Success".

MARCH PREACHING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 4, 2012
2nd Sunday Lent
Communion

GUEST PREACHER –Dr. Andrew Purves @943 and 11:00 a.m.
Professor of Pastoral Care, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Sermon: **“The Grace of ‘Thou’ Who Is With Us.”** based on Psalm 23

8:30 a.m. Only

FORGIVING AND FORGIVEN Dr. Broberg
Communion Meditation –Colossians 3: 12-17
“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive...” v. 13
If one is forgiven, one can forgive; if one can forgive, one is forgiven.

March 11, 2012
3rd Sunday Lent

Multi-part Sermon Series: “Beating Anxiety in an Anxious World”
Sermon #1: THE HOUSE DOESN’T CAUSE THE TORNADO
Matthew 5: 1-12 / “Blessed are you when men revile you...on my account...” v. 11

Its not about me –its about YOU, Lord! Distinguish between the presenting issue and what is really going on. The vociferousness of pushback on spiritual matters. Edwin Friedman’s insights into the causes and solution to anxiety in the modern world.

March 18, 2012
4th Sunday Lent
Spiritual Renewal
Weekend

GUEST PREACHER –Dr. Bruce Bickel @ 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sermon: **“FULFILLING OUR PURPOSE”** Text: Ezekiel 36: 22-27 and 2 Corinthians 4: 7-12
Worship and Preaching at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Major Spiritual Renewal
Brunch and Program at 10:00 a.m. Opportunity to sign up for small group in re:
“Experiencing God”.

March 25, 2012
5th Sunday Lent

Multi-part Sermon Series: “Beating Anxiety in an Anxious World”
Sermon #2: THE TRANSFORMER
Matthew 6: 25-34 / “But seek first His Kingdom...” v. 33

The counterintuitive spiritual discipline of focusing first upon GOD and not on our problems ratchets anxiety down, not up.

April 1, 2012
Palm Sunday
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Multi-part Sermon Series: “Beating Anxiety in an Anxious World”
Sermon #3: THE NON ANXIOUS PRESENCE
Matthew 21: 1-11 / “Who is this?” v. 10

Jesus is amazingly calm in the midst of all the swirling events of Holy Week. Calm during the triumph of Palm Sunday –calm during his trial, scourging, cross. How does He do this? What is the secret He knows that we also can know? Two services, one at 9:00 a.m.

(contemporary) and one at 11:00 a.m. (traditional) with a special program with a live donkey in between.

April 5, 2012
Maundy Thursday
Communion
7:00 p.m.

The Living Cross Tenebrae Service –Multi-part Sermon Series: “Beating Anxiety...”

Sermon #4: WELCOME TO GOOFY-TOWN
Matthew 26: 59-68 and 27: 11-23 and 27: 27-31

All about Jesus are losing their reason and their calm –but Jesus remains completely calm in the midst of Goofy-town.

The young people stand in the form of a cross with lighted candles and the candles are extinguished and the sanctuary gradually becomes dark in anticipation of the darkness of Good Friday and the death of Jesus. The service is preceded by a meal in the Covenant Center.

April 6, 2012
Good Friday
Noon

At the Foot of the Cross

Guest Preacher: Representative from Faith Pres. Church
Commons Area

**A Prayer Vigil
in Rusch Chapel
On Maundy Thursday, April 5, 2012
7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.**

- During the Vigil, the pastors will hold a prayer service in Rusch Chapel from **noon until 12:30 p.m.** Communion will be served. All are welcome.
- A light luncheon will be served in the Dining Room at **12:30 p.m.** for a minimal cost of \$3. All are welcome.
- The Vigil will conclude with a Maundy Thursday Service at **7:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary led by the pastors. This service will include Communion. All are welcome.
- If you are able to participate in the Prayer Vigil, the following time slots are available. Select one that will fit your schedule. You may arrive anytime within that hour. Please make a note of the time you have selected. A host will be present and materials for prayer are provided.

7:00—8:00 a.m.	10:00—11:00 a.m.	1:30—2:30 p.m.	4:30—5:30 p.m.
8:00—9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.—noon	2:30—3:30 p.m.	5:30—6:30 p.m.
9:00—10 a.m.	12:30—1:30 p.m.	3:30—4:30 p.m.	6:30—7:00 p.m.

When you rearrange the letters of PRESBYTERIAN, you get BEST IN PRAYER

**Please detach and place in offering plate or
send to the church office
267 E. Beau St., Washington, PA 15301**

Vigil Response

Name _____

I **will** participate in the Vigil from _____ until _____.

_____ **Yes**, I will be attending the luncheon.

I will participate by praying at home from _____ until _____.

**Please detach and place in offering plate or
send to the church office
267 E. Beau St., Washington, PA 15301**

Prayer Request

Those who participate in the Vigil will offer prayers on behalf of the entire congregation. You may request as many prayers as you wish.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The **COVENANT KIDS CHOIR** will be singing as part of Music Ministry Sunday, March 11th. The entire Children's Sunday School will be present to hear them and then gather in the Covenant Center for some fun activities and a snack together! Plan to be there and bring a friend!



GOD'S GARDEN--SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH

9:00 AM-11:30 AM

God's Garden is a wonderful opportunity for Pre School and early elementary (Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades) children to share activities with their families. The activities include story time, an egg hunt, music, crafts, planting flowers, a petting zoo, and a yummy snack. Come at anytime during the morning and stay as long as is convenient. Complete the registration form and return it to the church WELCOME CENTER Sunday mornings or to Janet Nevin, Director of Children's Ministry by Monday, March 12th. A \$5.00 donation/child is appreciated! Registration forms will be distributed in Sunday School classes or are available at the Welcome Center or on the church's website!

PALM SUNDAY!—APRIL 1ST

PALM SUNDAY will have a different schedule than the past few years!

PALM SUNDAY will have **TWO (2)** worship services! The 9:43 (Contemporary) service will be at **9:00** in the Covenant Center. The Traditional Service will be at **11:00** in the Sanctuary.

The **10:00** hour will **begin** with the **PALM PARADE**, so meet in the Commons @ 10:00 to get a palm to participate. We will follow the donkey around the church waving our palms and shouting HALLELUJAH! What a testimony to the city of Washington!

After the PALM PARADE the **COVENANT KIDS CHOIR** will sing in the Commons! On that first Palm Sunday, the children led the praises!

Finally - enjoy a delicious **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** in the Covenant Center.

Come and **WORSHIP** at your favorite worship style and “**meet in the middle**” for a time of fellowship!



PINE SPRINGS SUNDAY is April 15th when Greg Davis, Pine Springs Director will be with us! He will be sharing a Moment for Mission during the three worship services, and then he will talk with the children during Sunday School about all the fun activities available at Pine Springs! There are lots of MAJOR

FUN opportunities—swimming, climbing walls, canoeing, white water rafting, hiking, the mud pit (check out the picture on the poster)—just to name a few—all while coming closer to God and making life time friends and memories! There are many weeks available during the summer! There is scholarship money available from the church!

Children who are not members are welcome to attend! Find a week! Find a friend!

ATTEND SUMMER CAMP 2012 @ PINE SPRINGS!

Brochures are available at the Welcome Center or check out the website @ www.pinesprings.org. Contact Janet Nevin for information about the scholarship money available to **ALL** Church of the Covenant children/families/youth who are interested in attending!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - OPERATION OVERBOARD!

Come and meet OCHO! July 9-13th @ 9:00-Noon!



Youth Schedule for March

Greetings from Shift Youth Ministry in the month of March! Our Teens are being radically changed by all of the new programs. It has been a great joy to watch all of them grow and change through their unique and individual, personal relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am so excited for all of the great things to come and I can't wait to see how the Lord will shape the students through these upcoming events! Alex

March 4

Contemporary Worship: 9:43-10:50
Momentum: 11:00-12:00
Kinetic: 6:00-8:00
Velocity: 8:00-8:30
Christ rescues

March 11

Contemporary Worship: 9:43-10:50
Momentum: 11:00-12:00
Kinetic: 6:00-8:00
Velocity: 8:00-8:30
Serving God Local Missions projects

March 17 (SAT)

Dream on Special Teen Girl & Mom's retreat
Please be at the church at 7:30AM! We will return at 5:30PM
Event runs at Pittsburgh's Soldiers and Sailors Auditorium
from 9-4

March 18

Contemporary Worship: 9:43-10:50
Momentum: 11:00-12:00
MS goes to Momentum // HS goes to Experiencing God
Kinetic 6:00-8:30
NO VELOCITY

Testimony Night! This is a special family night where we can learn about our individual spiritual journey's as well as have a meeting about how we can use the summer to reach out and continue living out discipleship in our lives.

March 25

Contemporary Worship: 9:43-10:50
Momentum: 11:00-12:00
Kinetic: 6:00-8:00
Velocity: 8:00-8:30

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

As we begin our Lenten journey - a time of reflection inward and heaven ward - please consider some of the opportunities made available through the efforts of the Adult Ministry Team.

Of course, the **Sunday morning** offerings are continuing with their respective studies: at 9:30 the **Parlor Class** is studying The Sermon on the Mount; at 11:00 the **Bible Study in the Parlor** is continuing a study of the Gospel of John; and also at 11:00 the **Discovering Faith** class is studying "God's Faithfulness." These groups welcome newcomers at ANY time!

The **WEDNESDAY EVENING SPEAKER SERIES** welcomes the return of Dr. Jim Platt to lead us in a study of John 13-17. Dr. Platt summarizes his class with the following:

*"Now before the Feast of the Passover..." Here we are. It is Thursday of Holy Week. It is the day that we have come to designate Maundy Thursday (based upon the Latin *mandatum novum* "new commandment," which Jesus gives to His disciples in 13:34). Little did they know it, but less than 24 hours after breaking bread together, Jesus would be crucified at Calvary.*

John R.W. Stott has written: If Scripture may be likened to a temple, these chapters are the inner sanctuary of the Temple. As we read them, we seem to step into the Holy of Holies in which the very presence of God is made manifest. We are permitted to enter the mind of the Master, as He revealed to the apostles His innermost thoughts about His imminent departure through death and the coming of the Holy Spirit to replace Him, about His own return at the end to take His people to Himself, and about the responsibilities of the Christian and the Church during the interim period between His departure and His return.

Join us as we walk together through five of the most sacred chapters in all of Scripture.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
RE-CAP FOR 2011

Thanks to all of you, The Church of the Covenant was able to pack 735 shoeboxes in 2011! We were able to give the gift of the Christmas Child – the gift of Jesus Christ – to 735 children!!!

Below is a recap of the OCC ministry for 2011 which gives a break down of how many boxes were packed in each age group, followed by the OCC finances. In addition to the monetary donations, many *items* were donated for the shoeboxes.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>
10 - 14	165	162	327
5 - 9	81	109	190
2 - 4	<u>88</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>218</u>
	334	401	735
Total Income	\$5,290.07	(Est. income from Chick's CD - \$4,500.00)	
Total Expenses	<u>\$5,658.72</u>		
*LOSS	\$ - 368.65		

Plans are already under way for OCC 2012! It is our desire to continue to offer three ways for the congregation to support OCC, just as we have done for the past two years.

1. Anyone can pack a shoebox and bring it in.
2. We will provide a shopping list and items can be donated.
3. You will be able to sponsor a shoebox in honor or in memory of someone for \$30.

The ministry of OCC is not part of the church budget and is funded by donations. Your generosity and support has been overwhelming and humbling. It is my prayer that you will continue to show your love for this ministry.

In closing, I would like to once again thank Chick Carlisle. His singing has touched many hearts and I don't think there is anyone on this earth that can sing the OCC theme song better. But someday when we are in Heaven, how precious the sound will be, when someone we never met comes to us and says – *“Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am a life that was changed.”*

God Bless all of you, and as always, THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD!!!

Kim Carter (on behalf of the OCC Team)

LILIES TO ADORN THE SANCTUARY

It's time to order gorgeous White Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Only \$8 each!
Orders due to Church Office by March 23, 2012 make checks payable to *“The Church of the Covenant”*
with *“Lily” in the memo please*

In Memory / Honor of: Last Name: _____

First name: _____ Relationship _____

Number Ordered _____ Amount Enclosed (\$8 each) _____

Ordered by _____

Phone # _____

- I will pick mine up after Easter I would like mine delivered to a shut-in

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

NOTE: In Stu's sermon on 2/12 about Judas, he mentioned a book entitled I, Judas by Taylor Caldwell. It's available for checkout in the library.

The following books were donated to the library. The Library Committee thanks the donors. All have been cataloged and are ready to be checked out. The library is in Room 308, the first room on the right as you enter the third floor hallway from the elevator. The card catalog will help you to locate a book by author, title or subject.

The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman. Hoffman's latest book is historical fiction about the siege of Masada in 70 C.E. The actual history is that 900 Jews held out for months against the Roman armies on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. The fictional part focuses on four women, each of whom has come to Masada by a different path. The lives of these women intersect in the desperate days of the siege when all of them are dovekeepers.

Peony in Love by Lisa See. This work of fiction takes place in 17th century China after the Ming dynasty was crushed. The main character is a young woman named Peony who is the cloistered daughter of a wealthy family engaged to someone she has never met. She wants to attend an opera but her mother is against her going. Her father says any women attending will watch the performance from behind a screen. While there, Peony observes a young man. The novel explores the bonds of friendship, the power of words, and the desire of women to be heard.

The following was given to the library by church member, Dave Warne.

Reflections of a Christian Woman by Martha Jane Hall Warne. Martha was an active member of our church who died on 9/20/10. During the years of her illness, she wrote poetry that expressed her strong Christian beliefs and God's hand in her life. This is a notebook that contains her creative thoughts.

The following gently used book was donated by Mary Stewart.

A Painted House by John Grisham. This novel was inspired by Grisham's own childhood in rural Arkansas. Luke Chandler is the character that narrates the story. He is seven and lives with his parents and grandparents in a little house that's never been painted. The Chandlers rent 80 acres on which they raise cotton. During the harvest season, Luke sees and hear things that he keeps as secrets. It's a moving story of a boy's journey from innocence to experience.

The following gently used book was donated by Barb and Tom Knight.

In a Sunburned Country by Bill Bryson. The author is well known for his non-fiction books about places he has visited. This one is about Australia. It's described as a country that doubles as a continent, a place with the friendliest inhabitants,

the hottest, driest weather, and some of the most unusual and lethal wildlife. Bryson brings a lot of humor to his writing as he describes the many places he visited in the 'land down under'. (Another of his best sellers, A Walk in the Woods is available in the library. It's about his walking the Appalachian Trail)

These gently used books were donated anonymously. The Library Committee thanks the donors.

Keeping Faith: A Father-Son Story About Love and the United States Marine Corps by John and Frank Schaeffer. John Schaeffer decides to join the Marines at the age of 18. His dad doesn't agree with his decision. This non-fiction book is written in alternating voices by father and son. It takes the reader through the experience of the Marine Corps from the experience of being broken down and built back up on Parris Island to the growth of both father and son. It's also a moving and well written human interest story.

30 Days to Understanding the Bible by Max E. Anders. The author writes "If you'll give me 15 minutes a day for 30 days, I'll give you an understanding of the Bible." By doing this, the reader will learn all the major events, the important people, the significant geographical locations and all the basic doctrines of Scripture. There are 4 sections to the book – The Story of the Old Testament, The Story of the New Testament, The Eight Great Subjects of Scripture and The Three Great Relationships of Scripture.

When You Look Like Your Passport Picture, It's Time to Go Home by Erma Bombeck. The focus of this book by the wonderful humorist includes the remembrances of her travels to the four corners of the world. For a person just beginning to travel, she addresses the topics of jet lag, tipping, shopping, language and the adventure of group tours. She also mentions some of the questions travelers may have such as "How come antiquity is never close to the parking lot?" As usual, the book provides the reader with a lot of laughs and perhaps, shared experiences.

Forever, Erma: The Best Loved Writing from America's Favorite Humorist by Erma Bombeck. Erma died in 1996 but she left a legacy of 4500 columns and 12 best selling-books. This book contains more than 190 of her most requested columns written from 1965 – 1996. At the end of the book is a section of tributes written by other famous writers as well as some of the words that were spoken by her family at her funeral.

Bible Clues for the Clueless by Christopher D. Hudson. This book offers a way to get to know the basics of the Bible. It covers background information about the 66 books of the Bible, reveals details about ancient customs and cultures, lists the Who's Who in the Bible, and makes suggestions about how to study the Bible on your own. It might be a worthwhile reference for any Christian.

March SCRIPTURE READINGSThursday March 1

Gen. 39:1-23
1 Cor. 2:14-3:15
Mark 2:1-12

Friday March 2

Gen. 40:1-23
1 Cor. 3:16-23
Mark 2:13-22

Saturday March 3

Gen. 41:1-13
1 Cor. 4:1-7
Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday March 4

Gen. 41:14-45
Rom. 6:3-14
John 5:19-24

Monday March 5

Gen. 41:46-57
1 Cor. 4:8-20 (21)
Mark 3:7-19a

Tuesday March 6

Gen. 42:1-17
1 Cor. 5:1-8
Mark 3:19b-35

Wednesday March 7

Gen. 42:18-28
1 Cor. 5:9-6:11
Mark 4:1-20

Thursday March 8

Gen. 42:29-38
1 Cor. 6:12-20
Mark 4:21-34

Friday March 9

Gen. 43:1-15
1 Cor. 7:1-9
Mark 4:35-41

Saturday March 10

Gen. 43:16-34
1 Cor. 7:10-24
Mark 5:1-20

Sunday March 11

Gen. 44:1-17
Rom. 8:1-10
John 5:25-29

Monday March 12

Gen. 44:18-34
1 Cor. 7:25-31
Mark 5:21-43

Tuesday March 13

Gen. 45:1-15
1 Cor. 7:32-40
Mark 6:1-13

Wednesday March 14

Gen. 45:16-28
1 Cor. 8:1-13
Mark 6:13-29

Thursday March 15

Gen. 46:1-7, 28-34
1 Cor. 9:1-15
Mark 6:30-46

Friday March 16

Gen. 47:1-26
1 Cor. 9:16-27
Mark 6:47-56

Saturday March 17

Gen. 47:27-48:7
1 Cor. 10:1-13
Mark 7:1-23

Sunday March 18

Gen. 48:8-22
Rom. 8:11-25
John 6:27-40

Monday March 19

Gen. 49:1-28
1 Cor. 10:14-11:1
Mark 7:24-37

Tuesday March 20

Gen. 49:29-50:14
1 Cor. 11:2-34
Mark 8:1-10

Wednesday March 21

Gen. 50:15-26
1 Cor. 12:1-11
Mark 8:11-26

Thursday March 22

Exod. 1:6-22
1 Cor. 12:12-26
Mark 8:27-9:1

Friday March 23

Exod. 2:1-22
1 Cor. 12:27-13:3
Mark 9:2-13

Saturday March 24

Exod. 2:23-3:15
1 Cor. 13:1-13
Mark 9:14-29

Sunday March 25

Exod. 3:16-4:12
Rom. 12:1-21
John 8:46-59

Monday March 26

1 Cor. 14:1-19
Mark 9:30-41

Tuesday March 27

Exod. 5:1-6:1
1 Cor. 14:20-33a, 39-40
Mark 9:42-50

Wednesday March 28

Exod. 7:8-24
2 Cor. 2:14-3:6
Mark 10:1-16

Thursday March 29

Exod. 7:25-8:19
2 Cor. 3:7-18
Mark 10:17-31

Friday March 30

Exod. 9:13-35
2 Cor. 4:1-12
Mark 10:32-45

Saturday March 31

Exod. 10:21-11:8
2 Cor. 4:13-18
Mark 10:46-52

**DEACONS CORNER****YOUR WHITE GIFTS AT WORK**

The 2011 White Gift Collection is going to two worthy recipients:

1. Court Appointed Special Advocates for children (CASA):

CASA volunteers protect the rights of abused and neglected children. Our White Gifts are designated for the Washington County CASA Program.

2. Menaul School Mission Trip - September 2012:

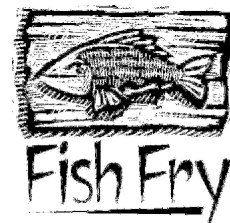
Our White Gifts will supplement our mission volunteers' expenses where needed, for travel, meals, car rental, etc. Menaul School is a faith based, multicultural, college preparatory school for grades 6 through 12 in New Mexico.

Thank you for your White Gift Contributions.

The Deacons

FISH FRIES at The Church of the Covenant**Friday, March 23 & Friday, March 30****Mark your calendars, now!**

Deacon Dayne Warren is coordinating workers for this "Covenant Classic". Anyone who would like to help should call Dayne at 724 470-3934. The dates are March 23 and March 30 from 5:00 to 7:00. You can eat in or take out!! Take out orders should be phoned ahead at the COTC phone number (724-222-0190) so it will be ready when you arrive to pick them up. *Sponsored by our Deacons*



COLLEGE OF WOOSTER SYMPHONIC BAND

Once again, The Church of the Covenant is proud to present this concert at 7:00 PM on Saturday March 10th featuring the very talented College of Wooster Symphonic Band under the direction of Prof. Nancy Ditmer. The Scott Band is a performing organization whose emphasis during the fall season is on marching, with the latest techniques and best quality of appropriate music being prepared and performed. In winter and spring the band studies and performs the best in band literature from all periods for performance on tour and for home audiences. Admission to be a part of the Symphonic Band is by audition. Also performing will be the Scott Pipers and Scottish dancers always a great crowd pleaser. The ensemble totals approximately 100 students. In order to host this concert the church must provide dinner for the students Saturday evening housing for the students for Saturday night. To provide housing for the band we have the following two options:

GAIN NOT LOSS

Dear friends:

I attended the funeral of my friend and colleague in ministry, The Reverend Ed DeLair, Jr., just recently. Ed and I started out as “young pastors” together here in Washington Presbytery more than 25 years ago –he, at Pigeon Creek and me, in Hickory. When I returned three years ago to serve The Church of the Covenant, much to my delight, my friend, Ed was serving at Faith UP Church right up the road. It was great joy to reconnect with him after many years of serving in ministry apart from one another.

Along with our beloved Associate Pastor Randy Boyer and Steve Smith (from First Presbyterian Church 1793) and Linda Webster (from Faith UP) and Jen Newman (from First Presbyterian Church 1793) we began the Three Church Conferences and had our three churches do adult ed events together, as well as Thanksgiving Eve Services and Good Friday Services. The friendship and collegiality continues to be a blessing and there are wonderful ties continuing to develop between our three churches. For example, Alex Miller, our Director of Youth Ministry and Jen Newman, from First Pres, worked together on our joint youth group’s recent successful 30 Hour Famine.

How good it is, as the Bible says, when brothers (and sisters!) dwell together in unity! It is a foretaste, I believe, of what heaven will be like.

Ed and I didn’t always see eye to eye on all matters theologically, but I really don’t think in the end that really matters as much as the relationships which we share because of the same Savior who dwells in our hearts. Jesus alive within our heart and being together because of HIM, I find as I get older, matter more than the things which I thought used to divide us. I think “maturity in Christ”, a phrase the Bible uses, understands that the things which bind us together are always more important than the things which may draw us apart.

So when Ed announced he felt called to go to Ghost Ranch a year ago to become its program director (quite a plum, really) it felt as if something had died within. I was happy for him, but sad for me. I knew he was going on to good place, where God meant him to be. And that helped me to get to the place where I was happier for him than I was sadder for me. But I must admit, I did miss him.

And then I learned of his untimely death at age 57 on February 1st. So I am sad again for me, but happy for him. I know he is in a great place, heaven, and I know I will see him again. I look forward for that day when I go to “that great presbytery meeting in the sky” and am reunited with all my friends and colleagues over many years of ministry. What a day of rejoicing that will be!

I deeply wish that more people were more interested in developing relationships which will last beyond a lifetime and into eternity than in being “right” in some debating point in the here and now. Being “right” is fleeting –having dear friends in the faith lasts forever. May the friendships forged through a Living Savior continue to remind us what heaven one day will be like!

In the end, it really is all about GAIN, not loss. Thank you, Jesus!

Faithfully,
Dr. Stu Broberg

The Messenger

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Maxine Donham	Mar 1	Craig Myers	Mar 5	Kelley Proudfit	Mar 14	Harry Johnston	Mar 21
Alicia Durbin	Mar 1	George Miles	Mar 6	Clint Watson	Mar 14	Kathy Kengor	Mar 21
Rose Moyer	Mar 1	Janet Nevin	Mar 6	Paul Warne	Mar 15	George Linck	Mar 21
Richard Piatt	Mar 2	Tommy Day III	Mar 7	Carolyn Florian	Mar 16	Bonnie Densmore	Mar 22
Renee Dickson	Mar 3	Carrie Justice	Mar 7	Gay Vroble	Mar 16	Casey Key	Mar 23
Shirley Howe	Mar 3	Chuck Bowen	Mar 8	Jeffrey Goddard	Mar 17	Mary Alice Wilson	Mar 24
Kevin Kepler	Mar 3	Troy Patterson	Mar 8	Rebecca Steele	Mar 17	Barre McClay, Sr.	Mar 26
Dennis Makel	Mar 3	Richard Welch	Mar 9	Tracy Hrtiz	Mar 18	William Styperk IV	Mar 26
Margaret Miller	Mar 3	Clarissa Lucas	Mar 10	David Camlin	Mar 19	Kathy Marr	Mar 27
Amanda Briggs	Mar 4	Terrie Myers	Mar 10	Kirk Spiegel	Mar 19	Jane Wagner	Mar 28
Ronald Hahn	Mar 4	Colleen Benard	Mar 11	Holly Crile	Mar 20	Caleb Maleski	Mar 29
Barry Blose	Mar 5	Gloria Lesnock	Mar 11	Brian Dessart	Mar 20	Colton Maleski	Mar 29
Jarrett Maleski	Mar 5	Lois Morton	Mar 12	Kelli Freiwald	Mar 20	John Fisler	Mar 30
Mary Marr	Mar 5	Marge Vanatta	Mar 13	Samantha Cooper	Mar 21	James Johnson	Mar 31