

Dear friends:

After my experience this past week at General Assembly I have chosen to revise what I had planned to preach. I do this whenever there are hurricanes, national emergencies (like 9/11) and things like this past General Assembly that demand our more immediate attention. I hope that the sermon I preach at 8:30 and 9:43 (the Mt. Anthems are singing at 11:00 a.m.) will help to frame the context of our ongoing conversations going forward.

I remember after 9/11 my dear Mother saying to me over the phone when she was going to a church meeting on 9/11 and I was counseling my parents that perhaps they should stay home to remain safe –she said, “If we change our path or modify our life at all, then the terrorists have won!”. Whether she had heard this on the radio or indeed was the first to coin the phrase I do not know. But she was clear that they were not modifying their life and faith because of something that intervened.

We are a wonderful church filled with caring and loving people. My prayer is that will never change. If we fight with one another, if we demonize someone of another viewpoint, if we believe the worst about someone else instead of the best then...the devil will have won.

We are a church poised on making major spiritual breakthroughs. Our worship attendance is growing, more younger people and families are joining, I believe we are turning a corner on financial matters. But if we fight with one another, if we choose not to be reconciled with one another, if we choose to get mad at one another instead of praying with one another...then the devil will win.

We are a church whom God is using to bring spiritual renewal to our community and world. Haiti Mission is making a huge impact, our involvement and leadership in things like the Washington Ministerium, the Franklin Graham Festival and other matters I believe are making a spiritual impact in people’s lives. But if members get mad at one another and people on both sides of the issue get angry and leave (if what is happening in our larger denomination happens to us as a church)...then the devil will win.

I want Jesus to win. My hope is that we will stop and take a deep breath, trust one another and the Lord God, and choose to pray together, speak together, and be together, holding Jesus’ hand and walking through this time united in HIM. I am your pastor and I LOVE YOU ALL very much,

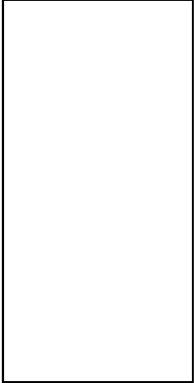
Faithfully, Dr. Stu Broberg

TIMES OF PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION

On **Tuesday evenings, July 8, 15, 22 and 29** we are going to offer time for prayer and reconciliation in the **Sanctuary at 7:00 PM.** As a church we want to be faithful to what we believe, take time to be still and listen for God’s voice. We hope you can be with us as we come together, united as The Church of the Covenant in our love for God and in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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The Summer Messenger

Newsletter of The Church of the Covenant - July 2014

STAFF

Dr. Stuart D. Broberg

Pastor, Head of Staff
724-222-0190 x 117
stuartbroberg@aol.com

Rev. Emily Miller

Associate Pastor
724-222-0190 x113

Don Nixon

Director of Spiritual Dev.
724-222-0190 x111
dwnccovenant@gmail.com

Stacy Phillips

Des. Dir. Christian Education
724-222-0190 x 115
stacyphillipscofc@gmail.com

Debi Nicolella

Church Administrator
724-222-0190 x 112
churchoftheco@comcast.net

Anthony Nicolella

Financial Administrator
churchoftheco@comcast.net

Darla Pepper-Miller

Director of Music Ministry
724-222-0190 x 118
d52chilipepper@yahoo.com

Ralph Farabee

Maintenance Supervisor
724-222-0190 x 119

Cyndi Barney

Church Sexton
724-222-0190 x 119

Camille Braun

Pre-School Director
724-222-0190 x 121
brauncamille@yahoo.com

Debbie Miles

9:43 Music Coordinator
derbalee@gmail.com

Peg Flynn

Administrative Assistant
724-222-0190 x 112

Rev. Randall V. Boyer

Associate Pastor Emeritus

JULY PREACHING & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 6, 2014 **LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG**
4th of July I Corinthians 15: 51-58
Communion “...be steadfast, immovable, always
abounding in the work of the Lord...” v. 58

July 13, 2014 **I BELIEVE IN GOD**
Isaiah 64: 8-9
Sermon Series: Belief in a Post-modern world: Part 1 of
The Apostles’ Creed.
“Thou art our Father, we are the clay...” v. 8

July 20, 2014 **WE ARE WEIRD ANIMALS, TOO**
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM
VBS Sunday Romans 12: 3-8
Pastor Emily preaches

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday. Be invitational and invite
a friend to come and hear the children sing as we
celebrate God through Vacation Bible School Sunday.

July 27, 2014 **DO WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?**
Christmas in July Isaiah 7: 14
Operation Christmas Child kick off
Sermon Series: Belief in a Post-modern world: Part 2 of
The Apostles’ Creed.
“Behold, a young woman shall conceive...” v. 14

August 3, 2014 **WHY IS GOD BORING?**
Communion I John 4: 13-21
Sermon Series: Belief in a Post-modern world: Part 3 of
The Apostles’ Creed.
“...because He has given us of His own Spirit.” v. 13

August 10, 2014
Pastor Emily Preaches
Dr. Broberg is away

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
All Sunday School classes will resume in September.
Church Office Hours - Mon. - Fri. 9:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE FAMILY OF FAITH

Baptisms

Baptized on June 15, 2014 at the 11:00 a.m. service: **Maxim Daniel Piatt**, son of Craig and Rachel Piatt, born February 5, 2014, and **Olivia Rose Sleek**, daughter of Broc and Brooke Sleek, born March 13, 2014. Rev. Emily Miller officiated.

Weddings

On Saturday, June 7, 2014, **Keri A Simmons** and Luke Ohlinger were married in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant with Rev. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

FUNERALS

Shirley W. Presto died on Saturday, June 7, 2014. Her funeral service was held on Wednesday, June 11th at William G. Neal Funeral Home with Rev. Emily Miller officiating.

SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

Summer is here and The Carnahan Library welcomes anyone who likes to read. Please plan to browse to find both fiction and non-fiction books to sign out. The library is open on Mon. - Fri. from 9 - 3 and on Sunday from 8:30 - 12:30.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

THE NEXT WORK DAY - **SATURDAY, August 2nd @ 9:00-1:00**
IF INTERESTED IN WORKING PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME CENTER OR CONTACT STEVE JOHNSON 412 420-7253.

FROM HANDS AND HEARTS

We need donations of the following items for **Love In A Basket**.....

ITEMS FOR NEWBORN BABIES

Medium or Large Baskets; Baby Blankets/Quilts; Receiving Blankets; Diaper wipes; Diapers; Baby Shampoo/Bath soap/Lotion; Baby comb and brush sets; Baby Towels/wash cloths; Pacifiers; Small, plastic baby bottles; Sleepers/Bodysuits; Onesies; T-Shirts; Outfits (size 0 - 3 mos or 0-6 mos); Socks/Booties; Hats; Books, Rattles, Stuffed Toys, etc.

ITEMS FOR MOTHERS: Body lotion/ Body spray (non-aerosol); Shampoo/Conditioner, other toiletries; Picture Frames/Mini Albums; Stationery, Socks/One-size Slippers; Parenting Magazines; Books; etc.

USHER TEAM 1 ON DUTY FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

<i>Brant Barletta</i>	<i>Brian Edwards</i>	<i>Donald Faust</i>
<i>Louis Barletta</i>	<i>Christopher Edwards</i>	<i>John Riddle</i>
<i>Joel Braun</i>	<i>James Edwards</i>	

YOUTH MISSION EVENT RECAP

I would like to challenge everyone to take a drive on Locust Ave (between the construction at Ridge Ave and Hallam Ave) and see what our young people did June 16-18. Virtually every property was touched by clearing, cleaning, painting, siding, weedwacking, raking, building, planting or some other way. Seven youth from The Church of the Covenant joined about forty other youth and adults from Canonsburg UP, Washington Alliance, and Life Church to invest in a neighborhood in our back yard.

We had the mayor and other public officials speak to us and express their appreciation for the work we were doing. There was a two page spread in the Observer-Reporter. The residents of that block spent a lot of time just watching the kids in amazement. Many comments were made by those driving by to encourage the kids.

We housed and fed everybody at our church. The Covenant Center became a truly multi-purpose center of basketball, volleyball, kickball, wrestling, devotions and also served as the boys' dormitory. The girls were housed in the Youth Lounge. W&J let us use their shower facilities and our evening meetings were at Life Church at the corner of Main and Chestnut. The food was great and our people came through with great food for everybody....and the kids said as much!

It was hot all three days and we went through many cases of bottled water and kept our ice machine humming, but the only complaints were that they wished the whole event was longer than three days.

There are too many people to thank, but I need to express my gratitude for how the church family stepped up to give the kids their best which, in turn gave them what they needed to make an eternal difference that marked many lives and gave honor to our Lord.



SUMMER YOUTH SCHEDULE: For The Church of the Covenant youth a home mission trip was just the beginning of a great looking summer. Here's what we have to look forward to:

Wednesday, July 2: Pirates baseball game and tailgate party. Meet 4 pm at the church.

Sunday, July 6: Cookout, fishing, etc. at the Phelan farm.

Wednesday, July 23: Biking and rafting at Ohio pyle (\$40).

Thursday, July 24: COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT (mission trip) in Pittsburgh

Sunday, July 27: Youth group at Days (4 pm to 9 pm)

July 30 to August 2: Camp at Pine Springs

Sunday, August 3: Swim party at Artuso's (6 pm to 9 pm)

Wednesday, August 6: 24-Serve Another Day Part II

Sunday, August 10: Swim, survival game, last blast at Smiths (3 pm to 8 pm)

Saturday, August 16: Youth night at the Graham Festival

CLUB 56 ~ Club 56 in a unique gathering of kids going into 5th and 6th grade. Games, food, faith and just a little zaniness is what we do! We are off to a strong start and invite kids to come see what it's all about! **The next 2 meetings are: July 20th from 4:30-6pm here at Covenant, and August 3rd 4- 5:30 swimming at Artuso's House.** Let's have fun walking The Path Jesus leads us on together. Questions? Call Co-leaders, Don Nixon or Stacy Phillips at Church of the Covenant 724-222-0190.

BRING A FRIEND is the strategy employed by the **Three Rivers Festival of Hope** to bring your unchurched (or underchurched) friend or neighbor to Christ. There are two events this summer that can serve as opportunities to do just that. The first is **Vacation Bible School Sunday on July 20.** There will be just one service and a reception afterward. They will hear the kids singing their VBS songs and then be able to have some snacks and mingle.

The second is the **Festival itself August 15-17** at the Consol Energy Center. We encourage all of you to invite someone who needs to hear the gospel in a powerful and effective manner. Franklin Graham will speak, backed up by an outstanding program and music. We will have materials to help you to invite those whom God has laid on your heart. We look forward to how God will use both of these key events.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 14th- 18th, 2013 9:00 am-Noon



Children age 4 by July 1st-those completing 5th Grade are welcome! A \$10.00 donation/child is appreciated. This year's theme is **Weird Animals**- "Where Jesus Love is One of a Kind." We will have some actual live weird animals on Friday during VBS!! Registration forms are available on the church's website, the church office, or at the Welcome Center in the Commons! Please send registrations in by

July 7th. Forms can be sent to the church office, with VBS on the envelope. Checks may be written to "The Church of the Covenant" with VBS in the memo. All children attending VBS will receive a T-shirt on Friday. **Evening Picnic and Program— Friday, July 18th @ 6:00 pm.** Come enjoy hotdogs and picnic food in the Covenant Center, then stay for some songs and skits all about VBS. **Sunday, July 20th will be one service in the Covenant Center at 10 am. with a VBS presentation during worship.** Families and friends are WELCOME! Come see what the week was all about!

VBS DONATIONS

The following are a few of the things we need for VBS:

- * Clean, empty plastic fruit cups.
- * Large or small empty yogurt containers.
- * Empty and dry 16oz. water bottles.
- * Crayons and washable markers.
- * Thin ribbon about 1/4' for streamers on a craft.

Monetary donations above your regular pledge are also welcome.

Questions? Contact Stacy Phillips @ 724-222-0190 ext 115 or Cell# 724-554-3147



BREAKFAST CLUB TO BEGIN IN THE FALL

Youth ministry is going to take on a whole new flavor at The Church of the Covenant...like eggs, waffles, and BACON! The Breakfast Club will be commencing this fall as we place a greater emphasis on Sunday mornings with regard to reaching and discipling our teenagers.



With schedules getting ever more crowded it's easy to see that we have the most young people in attendance on Sunday morning. Let's take advantage of that. It's also where we will need the most help from the congregation.

The idea is to have the kids attend the 9:43 service and then a nice hot breakfast. Then we will have a regular youth ministry program that might consist of games, skits, music and of course getting into God's Word. The content will be worthy of Sunday School...just packaged a little different.....ok, a lot different!

We will need people willing to help out in many ways including preparing breakfast, leading small groups and other things. There will be a meeting to explain all of this on **Sunday, July 20 at 11:30am in the Youth Room.** There is just **one service that day at 10:00am** with a reception to follow to celebrate Vacation Bible School. It looks like a good time when a lot of parents and youth will be available. Please mark your calendar if this looks like it stirs interest. Let Don Nixon or Stacy Phillips know if you can attend. We look forward to seeing you.

We would typically publish the July birthdays and daily scripture readings in The Messenger. Conservation of space prohibits that, but birthdays will be posted on the bulletin board and scripture readings are available on the website (www.churchofthecov.org) and at the Welcome Center.

DEADLINE FOR THE August MESSENGER IS July 15TH!