

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR CHILDREN AND GOD

Dear friends:

I am pleased to announce that the Session has accomplished what it sought to do –to bring in our full complement of Christian Education staffing prior to Vacation Bible School! The Session came together to discuss and approve the job descriptions for the part time Program Manager –Christian Education and also the full time Minister of Christian Education. They approved the funding for the positions and the plan to search for and have them in place prior to the Fall Kick Off in September. A search committee, referred to as “The Conversation Group”, comprised of representatives from Personnel Committee and Christian Education Committee, met tirelessly and presented names to the recent regular and called Session Meetings for approval. The last piece of the puzzle in place, the approval of the person we feel God has called to be our Minister of Christian Education, was approved by Washington Presbytery Committee on Ministry, on June 15, 2016. So all pieces of the puzzle came together in a short time. At the end of March we said farewell to Stacy Phillips and by the middle of June we are blessed with two new C.E. staff members. Thank you, God!

We welcome **Jessica Hickman** as our part time *Program Manager –Christian Education* and she began her work as of June 15, 2016. She has long felt God has called her to serve the church in an official capacity and her heart is in Christian Education (she has three children active in Children’s Ministry). She has served as Chair of Christian Education and follows in a long line of successful Christian Educators raised up through our congregation, like Janet Nevin and Stacy Phillips. Her family has long standing connections to our church, the Craft family, and her sister, Amanda, is a missionary for the Presbyterian Church. She has “hit the ground running” and we look forward to an exceptional Vacation Bible School beginning July 20th this year. Her next program focus is Rally Day, September 18th. We officially welcome Jessica in all three services of worship on Sunday, June 26th. Please come and support her!

We also welcome **The Reverend Kay Baldarose** as our full time *Minister of Christian Education* and she begins her work as of July 15, 2016 –just in time for VBS. She has served First Presbyterian Church in downtown Pittsburgh as their Associate Pastor for seven years, with emphasis on Pastoral Care and Christian Education. She has served large churches over the course of her ministry, with emphases on CE and Women’s Ministries. We also know her husband, George Baldarose, who has served as our bagpiper on Reformation Sunday. Her home church is Church of the Covenant (Presbyterian) in Erie, PA and her seminary is Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She will officially transfer to Washington Presbytery at its September 13th meeting, but has been given permission to begin her service with us in July. Her first Sunday is July 17th where we will welcome her. Her first Sunday preaching is Vacation Bible School Celebration Sunday, July 24th. Please come and support her!

Copies of Jessica and Kay’s resumes are available in the Welcome Center or through the church office. We look forward to commissioning them and dedicating them on Rally Day, September 18th, as part of our fall kick off.

Thank you to members of the Conversation Group for their good work –Pat Boyer, Gary Recktenwald, Cindy Garlisi, Andy Kluzan, Brandi Frazee, and Sue Denmead.

Let us now commit our plans and these key people to the Lord.
Blessings!
Stu Broberg

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The Summer Messenger

Newsletter of The Church of the Covenant - July 2016

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- Rev. Randall V. Boyer**
Associate Pastor Emeritus

JULY PREACHING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- July 3, 2016** **THE PRINTER AND THE PREACHER**
4th of July Hebrews 11: 8-12
Communion “...whose builder and maker is God...” v. 10
The relationship between the evangelist George Whitefield and Ben Franklin. The friendship between church and State.
Fourth of July Sunday. Great music; love for country and love for God. We give thanks to God for our freedoms.
- July 10, 2016** **FEAR NOT**
Guest Preacher: Revelation 1: 4-19
- July 17, 2016** **NEW SERENITY PRAYER**
John 14: 25-27
“my peace I give to you...” John 14: 27
How to get a handle on serenity in a world that wants you to be anxious, upset and afraid.
- July 24, 2016** **Vacation Bible School Celebration Sunday**
Welcoming our new Minister of C.E. Rev. Kay Baldarose. She will be preaching at all three services at 8:30, 9:43 and 11:00 a.m. celebrating the difference God has made in the lives of our children through Vacation Bible School this year.
- July 31, 2016** **ON YOUR DARKEST DAY**
Psalm 88 & John 1: 4-5
“The light shines in the darkness...” John 1: 5
Remembering our friend and pastor, Randy Boyer, and the testimony of his life. The scripture he used at the last Healing Service.
- August 7, 2016** **KILLING JESUS**
The Bill O’Reilly
Book of the
Communion I Corinthians 15: 12-26
same title; the end

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! The Covenant Kids' Choir will ring "God Bless America" on the Kristal Bells on **Sunday, September 11, 2016**, during the 11:00 service. We will **rehearse that Sunday morning at 10:30 in the sanctuary**. We will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of the tragic events that so affected all of us.

The Church of Covenant ~ 267 East Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301
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Sunday School Classes will resume in September.



Ronald R. Cochran

Memorial Fund Timothy & Chryl Walsh

James Grimm

Memorial Fund Perry & Paula Lane

Marilyn Crawford

Christian Education Fund Bob, Mary & Katie Wichterman

Memorial Fund Perry & Paula Lane

Nevin Children's Ministry Endowment Don & Linda Grimm

Memorial Fund Bill & Betty Braun

John W. McCreight

Organ Repair Fund Rick & Janet Nevin

In Honor of Stacy Phillips

Nevin Children's Ministry Endowment Rick & Janet Nevin

FUNERALS

Elizabeth H. Todd (former member) died on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. The funeral service was held on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at the church with Rev. Stuart D. Broberg officiating. Interment followed at the Homewood Cemetery, Pittsburgh, PA.

Marilyn Crawford (member) died on Thursday, June 9, 2016. The memorial service was held on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at the church with Rev. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

Weddings

On Saturday, May 21, 2016, **Rae Dawn Shipley and Phillip Gregory Guyton** were married in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant with Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

On Saturday, June 19, 2016, **Laura Smith and Paul Phillips** were married in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant with Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiating.

Baptisms

Baptized on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at the 943 a.m worship service, **Hailey Kathleen McCarter**, born July 20, 2012, daughter of Katherine Jones McCarter and daughter of Patrick McCarter.

Also baptized as an adult on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service, **Colton Clingermanstang**, son of Kristin Clingerman and Robin Stang, born April 18, 2001. Dr. Stuart D. Broberg officiated both baptisms.

Baptized on Sunday, June 19, 2016 at the 11 am worship service **Owen Robert Meerdo**, born January 9, 2016, son of Elizabeth (McDaniel)& Robert Meerdo III. Grandson of Craig & Susan McDaniel and Great grandson of Virginia Tichnel.

USHER TEAM 5 on duty for the month of July

Jack Keisling	Steve Johnson	James Simonini
Donald Grimm	Pamela Kushner	Bob Weber
Robert Johnson	Gary Recktenwald	

MUSIC NOTES by Darla Pepper-Miller

As the 2015-2016 Choir season comes to an end, I would like to take this time to thank the members of **The Chancel Choir** for their dedication, talent, and support. Your faithfulness in attending weekly rehearsals is greatly appreciated by this director. I am hearing such high praise from the congregation regarding the choir's anthems. In appreciation and love, I thank Fred Boni, Chris Bowers, John Breitigan, Maureen Breitigan, George Camlin, Joyce Camlin, Jerry Davison, Karen Davison, Tim Grantz, Dan Halulko, Dona Hamilton, Carolyn Holmes, Shirley Howe, Susan Keplar, Jeff Legler, John McCreight, Nancy McCreight, MaryAnna McNeel, Janet Nevin, Jonathan Pachter, Jean Pence, Nan Phelan, Richard Phelan, Linda Pitner, Pat Sanders, Rich Shankovich, Phil Weaver, Becky Wharton, Bob Wichterman, Katie Wichterman.

This is also a great time to thank the members of **The Jubilate Ringers**: Fred Boni, George Camlin, Joyce Camlin, Karen Davison, Terri Grantz, Helen Haines, Shirley Howe, Jackie Koman, Nancy McCreight, Joan McCrory, Emily Pitner, Linda Pitner, Pat Sanders, Katie Wichterman. And thanks to Rae Dawn Guyton, who gave us a generous gift for performing at her wedding, this group will be rehearsing a thrilling arrangement of "The Hallelujah Chorus" to be rung on Easter Sunday, 2017.

We cannot forget to thank the members of **The Covenant Kids' Choir**, who performed several times throughout the year. Also, thank you to the parents and grandparents of the young ones, who saw that they got to rehearsal. Thank you to Jasmine Amaya Diaz, Meghan Artuso, Carson Bashioum, Cole Bashioum, Allison Ewbank, Emily Ewbank, Natalie Ewbank, Makenna Frazee, Genny Halulko, Jack Halulko, Adeline Hickman, Emelia Hickman, James McCarter, Ada Rose Ralston, August Ralston, Emily Thompson.

I also thank the young people who have served as acolyte, crucifer, and beadle on Sunday mornings. Thank you to Todd Bright, Jack Halulko, and Sam Halulko.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OFFICIALLY JOINS THE CHURCH!

On **Sunday, June 12, the 2016** Confirmation Class was received by the congregation at the 9:43 worship service and introduced at the 11:00 service. Congratulations to: Isabella Armstrong, Todd Bright, Colton Clingermanstang, Sam Halulko, Seth Sumney, Carter Thompson, Nate Weaver and Madi Zadjel. They were received into full adult membership and discipleship that morning. May God Bless them as they continue to grow in their faith!

GREETINGS FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We want to introduce the members of the committee who will dedicate their time and commitment this year to the financial health of YOUR church this year.

Gordon Core (Chair), Dan Halulko, Joel Braun, Emily Blöse, Barry Blöse, Terri Grantz, Kerri Lacock, Susan Kepler, Brian Teagarden, and of course – Pastor Stu!

It is our mission to prayerfully bring creative ways to give in support of the programs and missions that make Church of the Covenant the place we all love. Last year, 43% of our families pledged commitments of their tithes and offerings on Consecration Sunday. Imagine what we could do if we grew that number to 50 or even 60 per cent !!!

Our April meeting devotion considered **Luke 21:1-4**, "The Widow's Offering."

¹As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ²He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³"Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Thank you for giving to the LORD!!!!!!!!!!!!

Brief Bio - I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself. I am Jessica Hickman and I have been given the awesome opportunity of being the Children's Education Program Manager! This position will allow me to organize and lead many of the incredible education programs that we have. The first one being VBS! I am so excited to be able to lead this wonderful program and watch God touch the lives and hearts of our young people...both attendees and helpers! My husband, Keith, and I were both raised in the COTC and are happy to call this church "home". We have 3 children, Emelia (11), Adeline (6), and Samuel (3)who have formed a love of this church and its members. They have been enjoying the variety of opportunities this church offers them to further develop their relationships with God. Growing up, I had many opportunities to work in the Christian Ed field. I helped with Sunday school, helped with VBS and worked in the nursery. I look forward to working with you to continue the quality education programs and experiences that the COTC has been known for.

~ Jessica Hickman. Program Coordinator, Christian Education

Thank you to all the friends who attended the End of the Year/Farewell Miss Stacy picnic last month. What a great way to end the Sunday School season and a wonderful opportunity for us to show our appreciation to Miss Stacy for all of her hard work. We would also like to thank all those that lent a hand in preparing for the picnic and for helping during the clean up. This would not have been possible without all of your help! Thank you again! Personnel, Deacons and CE committees

COTC VBS is right around the corner, July 20-22. Mark your calendars to attend or volunteer! Volunteers and donations are needed to make this program run as smoothly as possible. Please contact Jessica Hickman (peechwady97@yahoo.com) for more information or to add your name to the volunteers list. (There are opportunities outside of the VBS time, if that fits better into your schedule!) Donation needs:

- * Boxes of various sizes, empty milk jugs (will be turned into boulders)
- * Almost empty cans of expanding spray foam (we will try to use the rest for stalagmites)
- * Pool noodles (to become stalagmites)
- * Clean, empty toilet paper rolls * Brown butcher paper

Parking Lot Update As you have probably noticed we had a drainage problem in the lower parking lot. It has been repaired and had to be done prior to the blacktopping. I feel so blessed that we are able to start addressing the issues we have and am confident the initial repairs will be completed prior to Rally Day . Always Serving, Ralph

WHERE WERE YOU ON 9/11?

I think most of us, if not all of us, remember what we were doing, who we were with and how we felt. I know for me, connecting with my husband and children was foremost, long before anyone understood what was going on. I had just left a home in the Mon Valley and heard the news driving down the road. I kept changing the stations on the radio, what is this one saying? What is the other reporting? I couldn't wait to be home. This year will mark 15 years since 9/11. You can help The Church of the Covenant as we prepare to commemorate this event by submitting your account of where you were on 9/11. Your stories will be compiled in a booklet to be shared with our church family. Please send them to the church office, by email if possible. (We will accept written/typed recollections if necessary.) Deadline is August 31, 2016. We want to remember. -Kathy Hedges -Worship and Music Committee

DEADLINE FOR THE August MESSENGER IS July 15