



The Covenant Key

Covenant Presbyterian Church • 1025 - 28th Street, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

July 2010

Phone: 515.225.2254

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Reflections on the Holy Ordinary

Covenant Team to El Salvador

In October a team from Covenant, myself included, will visit El Salvador. The purpose of the trip is to explore the possibility of Covenant Church beginning a parish relationship with a church in a canton. A team up to 12 individuals can be accommodated and Kathy Mahler, Mission Facilitator for the presbytery, will serve as our host and guide for the visit.

What will be our task as a team? If you are considering making this trip, you will be asked upon your return to Covenant to begin the process of helping Covenant along with the Mission & Action Committee of evaluating the possibility of this partnership. While in the past, Covenant has been generous in providing financial support and has sent members to accompany other churches from Iowa traveling to the region, the discussion when we return is to consider the partnership Covenant Church itself could undertake and if so what form it would be. On the trip, you will be invited to chronicle your time, take

photos or record other information in order to help the congregation grow in its awareness of this ministry outreach of the Presbytery of Des Moines and whether our support of this mission will take on a new profile.

The travel time will be from Saturday October 23 to Saturday October 30th. I ask you prayerfully to consider becoming part of this temporary team visiting El Salvador. If you would like more information, contact Marie Michael or email me and I can forward your questions to the Mission & Action Committee. Another good resource would be to go to the Presbytery of Des Moines website and click on the link, "Our Sister Parish," to read about the ministry and what other churches are doing.

In Christian love,
Pastor Jan

It's VBS Time Again!



Sunday, Aug 1 –
Thursday, Aug 5
6:00 – 8:00pm
3yrs - 6th grade

Join everyone at God's Great Get-Together for a week of creating, connecting, and coming together.

There is a place for you at BAOBAB BLAST!

Registration forms and drop off boxes are located in the church Narthex and office. You can also download a form from the church website at www.wdmcovenant.org.

Registration deadline is Sunday, July 25.

There is no dollar cost for this event.

If you are interested in participating as an adult leader or wish to donate by means of supplies or dollars, please contact Renae Woodworth, Director of Christian Education, at 515-225-2254/office, 515-556-7086/cell, or rwoodworth@wdmcovenant.org.

See you soon! Bring a friend!

Covenant Presbyterian Women (CPW) Meeting Minutes

June CPW Board Meeting Summary

- Sally Patton and Claudia Pitcher will co-chair the Wednesday Night Dinners next year. The first dinner will be September 15th.
- There will be a 2-drawer file cabinet in the Volunteer Office at Covenant. It will hold minutes and files from special activities such as the Table Top Luncheon. Contact Betty Ratekin if you have any materials to contribute on past activities.
- Table Top Luncheon Hostesses: Please call/email Latsamy with information on the number of seats available at your table for ticket sales! Do this ASAP.
- Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 6 at 5:00 p.m. at Covenant in the conference room.

El Salvador update

Covenant will send a delegation to visit El Salvador to explore a partnership with a canton near Berlin. The date is set for Oct. 23-Oct. 30. We still need several people to join the group. We will have a meeting August 15th after church service to meet with all interested people who wish to join this delegation. We will need to begin obtaining flights and passports. This trip will be one of the most meaningful weeks of your life guaranteed. Please give some prayerful consideration to joining.

Questions?

Marie Michael:
moree39@msn.com
MaryKay Barker:
remkbarker@mchsi.com

Greeter/Usher Schedule

Please find at right the greeter/usher schedule for the next quarter. If you are NOT available for the date you are assigned, please:

1. Contact one of the greeters from the list to switch with you.
2. Notify the office at 225 -2254 of the changes by Wednesday or before the bulletin listing.

A description of usher duties can be found on a clipboard on the cart by entrance to the Sanctuary.

Greeters/ushers are the first people with whom visitors and our members have contact when entering our church. We want to thank each of you for providing this valuable "first impression".

Thank you,
Marlene Huettl & Dawn Grandia—Worship Elders



SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M.

- July 4th: Gordon & Beth Miller, Bev Countryman, Norma McLaughlin
- July 11th: Jim & Barb Woodworth, Mark & Latsamy Hilliard
- July 18th: Jerry & Jean Caster, Bob & Joan Anthony
- July 25th: Mary Kay Barker, Tannis Mueller, Tom Brown, Clarice Sapp
- Aug. 1st: Dawn Grandia, Dan Ratekin, Cindy Ellston, John Sprole
- Aug. 8th: Weldon & Marie Michael, Diane Johnson, Lori Brown
- Aug. 15th: Kaela Phillips, Sandy Stuck, John & Kathy Eft
- Aug. 22nd: John & Fran Seago, Barb & Rick Storjohann
- Aug. 29th: Dave & Kelli Deines, Bill & Sally Patton
- Sept. 5th: Julie Severt, Eleanor Short, Warren Pitcher, Deb Hayes

REGULAR WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10:30 A.M.

- Sept. 12th: Lee & Judy Cox, Wayne & Judi Nikolish
- Sept. 19th: Scott & Judy Telford, Kent & Marilee Myers
- Sept. 26th: Kevin Littleton, Ben Woodworth, Teri Springer, Ginny Ver Ploeg

Covenant Volunteers

Support for Head Start

Thanks to Covenant's team of 8 volunteers who helped with the Sat morning, May 22, Spring Carnival, for Head Start kids and families. Bruce Anderson, Jackie Donovan, Bob Huettl, Marlene Huettl, Marilynn Johnson, Judi Nikolish, Leia Nikolish and Fran Seago helped with set up, welcoming families & kids, games & playground supervision, face painting, serving pizza and clean-up. Bruce Anderson added special delight for kids of all ages with his ever-amazing magic entertainment! A visit from the WDM fire department with a hook and ladder truck also added lots of excitement. Four Head Start staff coordinated the event with attendance of 52 kids (Head Start students and siblings) and 41 adults (parents & grandparents). Check out the Head Start bulletin board in the east entrance narthex for Carnival photos.

Thanks also to Covenant's team of 4 volunteers who helped with the morning preschool end of year party for students and families on Monday, June 7: Mary Faust, Marilynn Johnson, Judi Nikolish and Leia Nikolish. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to picnic in the playground with a respite from the rain!

Thanks to on-going volunteer support for the Head Start

program during the school year:

Mary Faust—sewing volunteer
Rose Milroy—resource preparer
Judi Nikolish—grocery shopper
Dot North—helping teacher with filing of children's projects and bulletin board artwork displays
Fran Seago—grocery shopper
Tammy Sprole—knitting volunteer
Marilynn Johnson—preschool classroom volunteer

Thanks also to Teri & Kelli Springer for their special hat, scarf and glove project.

The Head Start toddler program continues this summer and the morning and afternoon preschool classes resume in late Aug/early Sep. If you feel a Spirit nudge to help out IN ANY WAY or to learn more about the Head Start program, please call Marilynn Johnson at 278-2585. Either one-time sharing of time, talent or resources or ongoing volunteer support add extra energy and vitality to the program. Teachers and kids really appreciate helping hands with reading stories, eating with the kids and playing and doing activities with the kids. Please call Marilynn with ideas, questions and possibilities.

Deb Hayes, Bob Huettl, Pastor Jan Scott, Jerry Caster

Covenant's Head Start Partnership Planning Team

Food Pantry Update

Pastor Jan spoke in the last newsletter about scarcity. Another item of Covenant business is the scarcity of items for the DMARC food pantry. There is a significant larger number of people in the Des Moines area that is relying on food from the food pantry to feed their families this year with the economy struggling like it is. This is what has been happening... Consider a family of 4 people. Several years ago, food stamps would cover 3 weeks of food for this family with the 4th week allowing the family to go to the food pantry for that week's worth of groceries. Today with higher food prices, the food stamps only cover maybe 2 weeks worth of food leaving a family with one week of no groceries after they get the third week of food from the food pantry (a family is only allowed to visit the food pantry once a month). So now the food pantry in their great compassion allows this family to revisit again to pick up a bag of rice and a bag of dried beans. These are high protein staples common in many third world countries. Nutritious, but not much to look forward to for that 4th week of food.

We are asking Covenant this month to remember lots of food for the food pantry, but especially we would like to make a plea for a **bag of rice or a bag of beans** from every member. Lets load up the food pantry!

We would also like to thank John Beckwith for his magnificent service in delivering the items from our food pantry shelf in the church narthex to the DMARC food pantry once a month.

Spiritual Uplifting by the Covenant Shepherds

One Sunday I drove by the home of a friend who had lost her husband a week earlier. Something spoke to me, and I turned around and stopped in to see her. She talked at length about her husband and showed me some pictures that held dear memories for her. What a privilege it was for me to be there to allow her to speak about her loved one! Just a little giving of myself brought us both joy.

We want to make a difference in the lives of others in the community and in our church, but sometimes we feel shy or incapable. Like Moses, we might plead our inadequacy. But the Holy Spirit can work through us to ease someone's pain or reach out to someone in need. Doing this takes courage, especially for those of us who consider ourselves introverts. But we must do it, and do it with joy. Scripture commands it.

Every day, even in small ways, God provides opportunities for us to be doers of his Word. Let us seize each one.

Prayer: *Lord, help us not to make excuses or shy away from doing the work of others that you have committed to us. Amen.*

Taken from The Secret Place devotional.

Submitted by Mary Faust, Shepherd

Did You Know?

Interesting fact about Covenant

Nursery Volunteer Schedule

As you are aware, the number of little ones attending nursery is growing. Because there are so many, Jennifer needs help. We are going to try a different way to fill the nursery sign up schedule. The following is the nursery schedule for the third quarter of 2010. If you are NOT available for the date you are assigned, please:

1. Contact one of the other volunteers from the list and switch dates.
2. Notify Betty Ratekin at 225-3439 of the changes. She will notify the church office.

Betty will send out a reminder postcard or give you a phone call the week prior to the Sunday you will be helping in the nursery.

Thank you for supporting Covenant's nursery.

Betty Ratekin, Personnel committee nursery liaison and Jennifer McClintic, nursery staff

Jul 4	Barb Byas Deb & Paul Hayes
Jul 11	Glenna Evans Amy & Ben Anderson
Jul 18	Marie Michaels Trista & Matt Simons
Jul 25	Barb Woodworth Gretchen & Chris Forristall
Aug 1	Barb Storjohann Latsamy & Mark Hilliard
Aug 8	Mary & Russ Marshall Hanna Wolf
Aug 15	Leigh Anne & Jeff Williams Sandy Stuck
Aug 22	Kelli & Dave Deines Jean Caster
Aug 29	Deb & Paul Hayes Lori Brown
Sep 5	Teri & Brianna Springer Diane Johnson
Sep 12	Judy & Leia Nikolish Marie Michael
Sep 19	Amy & Ben Anderson Judy Telford
Sep 26	Gretchen & Chris Forristall Linda Rippentrop



Get Involved this Month — Covenant Activities at a Glance

- **Ladies Who Lunch:** The next luncheon will be July 26 at 11:30 a.m. at Mojo's 6163 NW 86th Street in Johnston. All ladies are welcome.
- **Annual Covenant Golf Outing:** The annual Covenant Golf Outing is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 18, 2010.
- **Covenant Presbyterian Women (CPW):** Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 6 at 5:00 p.m. at Covenant in the conference room.
- **Coffee Hour:** Every Wednesday at 10:00 am at Covenant
- **Habitat for Humanity:** Saturday, July 17th.
- **Brunch Potluck:** Sunday, July 11th following the worship service. All are welcome.

Golf Outing Sign-Up

The annual Covenant Golf Outing is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 18, 2010. Sign up sheets are up. Get your Team together, or sign up and we will put you with a Team. For \$40 you get golf, a cart, 2 beverage tickets and a cookout after golf. What a deal! This is a fun event, a great opportunity for fellowship with the Covenant family and others. If you are not a golfer, come and join us for dinner for \$7. Sign up so we have a count for golf and dinner. If you have questions, contact:

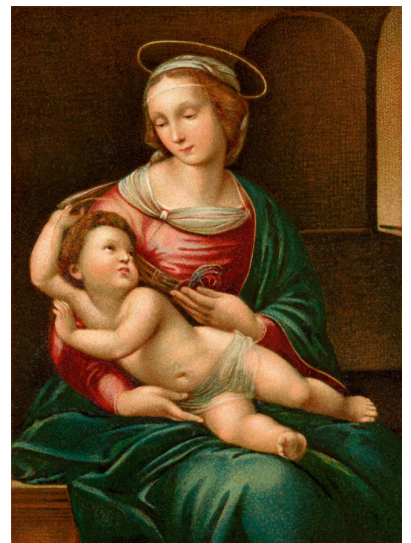
Rick & Barb Storjohann – 225-2765
Bob & Marlene Huettl – 278-0239

Employment Opportunity

It has been approved by Session to create the part-time staff position of **Nursery Assistant** to help with the care and nurture of our smallest members. This position will be open to the congregation only until July 2, 2010 and then to the public at large on Tuesday, July 6, 2010 until an appropriate hire has been made.

To inquire, please contact the Director of Christian Education, Renae Woodworth, at 515-225-2254/office, 515-556-7086/cell, or rwoodworth@wdmcovenant.org

To see a copy of the job description, visit our Covenant website at www.wdmcovenant.org.





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www.wdmcovenant.org

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Words of Gratitude

Many thanks to all that came on Wednesday evening to help with Yard Work. The crew consisted of Bob and Marlene Huettl, Russ and Mary Marshall, Dave and Kellie Deines and family, Larry Lowe, Julie Severt, Marie Michael, John Eft, Jim Hughes, Fred Couch, Pastor Jan, and Paul and Deb Hayes.

Again thanks for volunteering your time.

I wish to thank all of you who sent cards, stopped and visited me and made phone calls to me while I was recuperating from a severe fractured ankle. Your thoughtfulness and kindness was appreciated.

Alice Bell

To my Covenant friends,
My thanks for the PRAYERS I received during my hospital journey...Pastor Jan's visits, the beautiful cards of encouragement, the food, and calls were such a healing process. My prayer shawl continues to warm with God's Love.....Thanks be to God.

Norma McLaughlin

I would like to thank the Covenant Presbyterian Women for giving their very generous gift to the Calvin Good Samaritan Fund in honor of my husband, Jay.

Norma Brown

Volunteer Opportunities

CROSS Ministries Back to School Giveaway The CROSS Ministries Back to School Giveaway is scheduled for August 5 and 6. Donations are NEEDED, both monetary and school supplies. The gifts are down and the need has increased. Last year 1200 students received supplies and we expect more this year. \$30 will supply 2 students with backpacks filled with grade appropriate supplies (pencils, pens, crayons, notebook paper, folders, children's scissors, etc); your dollars are spent on discounted supplies over the internet. But we recognize the savvy of Covenant shoppers and do not want to discourage your purchased donations. Please bring all gifts to church by Sunday, July 26.

The new DMARC Food Pantry is open at Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church/CROSS Ministries. Volunteers are needed. At this time we're asking for 3 members of Covenant to help on the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. If you can volunteer 3 hours on July 21 or August 18 or any other Wednesday evening or Saturday morning, please contact Mary Kay Barker.