

Covenant Presbyterian Church
Charlotte, North Carolina
November 16, 2008

WELCOME TO COVENANT CHURCH

VISITORS AND MEMBERS of the congregation are invited to share refreshments and fellowship on the green immediately following the 11:00 worship service this morning.

LAST SUNDAY, COVENANT CHURCH welcomed 56 guests to its worship services. Each Sunday morning, nearly every pew will have a first-time or repeat visitor. Your warm greeting expresses the inviting and hospitable character of this congregation. Your smile and welcoming word make a difference!

STEWARDSHIP 2009 RESULTS

Blessed to be a Blessing

As of Thursday, November 13, 499 Covenant member households (including 98 children) have pledged \$1,954,938 toward our goal of \$2.6 million. All are encouraged to submit pledges which may be placed in the morning offering plate, mailed to the church office, or submitted [on-line through the church web site](#).

ON THE GREEN

Operation Christmas Child: Filled shoe boxes may be dropped off through next Sunday, November 23 on the green, in the narthex, or in the Rec. Wing. (Note: you may use any shoe box; it does not have to be purchased here).

Christmas wreaths: Orders are now being taken. Look for flyers around the church campus, on the web site, and on the green. Cost: \$20; order deadline: next Sunday, November 23.

LATER TODAY

The congregation is invited to “Chamber Music in the Chapel” at 3:00 this afternoon in Morrison Chapel. Featured artists: Rebecca Saunders, soprano; Laurel Talley, violin; Suzanne Cravens, ’cello; Susan Talley, piano and harpsichord. Music by Bach, Haydn, Corelli, Sarasate, Rachmaninoff and Rebecca Clarke. This event is free and open to the public; reception follows in the Parlor.

Young Adult Dinner: Meet at Katie Spearman’s home, 3207-514 Eastover Ridge Drive at 7:00 PM. Call Katie for directions 864-992-3749; bring \$5 and your appetite.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Middle school blog: covenantmsy.blogspot.com

Quest blog: covenantquest.blogspot.com/

High school blog: covenantcrossroads.blogspot.com

5:45 - 7:00 this evening

Middle School youth meet at the point; Quest meets in the Quest room (EW, 3rd floor); High School youth meet in Fellowship Hall. Youth choirs rehearse 4:30 - 5:30 this afternoon.

THIS WEEK

Covenant will house 12 women from the Salvation Army’s Center of Hope, beginning tomorrow evening through Monday morning, November 24. Our guests will arrive each evening for dinner, and spend the night in the basement of Fellowship Hall. They will have breakfast each morning, and then leave for the day with a bag lunch. Covenant volunteers will spend the night and prepare meals for the women.

The Midweek Worship Service with communion is held each Wednesday at 12:00 noon in Morrison Chapel. This week, Joan Watson delivers the meditation, assisted by Elder Mary Parrish Coley. Congregation members, guests and visitors are welcome. Note: No midweek service on Wednesday, November 23.

Quest participates in a Cardboard City homeless awareness simulation this Friday night/Saturday morning on the green. They participate in the homeless awareness walk Saturday morning.

Register for the 4th annual Homeless Awareness Walk on Saturday, November 22. The 3-mile family-friendly walk begins and ends in front of Crisis Assistance Ministry, 500 Spratt Street. Register on line at www.awayhome.org or in person on the day of the walk (\$10 per walker; children 12 and under free). Check-in and entertainment start at 8:30 AM; the walk begins at 10:00. Questions? Contact Brad Gritter (704-806-5754; brad.gritter@wachovia.com)

COVENANT CONNECTION

Covenant Connection is Covenant Church’s regularly scheduled mid-week dinner and program for members and guests of all ages. Dinner begins at 5:30; meal and child care reservations are needed by noon Monday and may be made [here](#). Meal charges are \$6 for adults, \$4 for children and youth under 18, with a \$20 family maximum. Programming is available, by reservation, for children ages 3 (potty trained) through 5th grade. This week is the Alternative Gift Market. Shop the many booths and give a gift that makes a difference for those in need. Specially priced gifts are available for children to give.

COVENANT COMMONS
Fellowship and coffee begin
each Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall

Classes in the second fall term continue through next Sunday, November 23. Topics and teachers include:

- God calling: Listening for the Spirit when all I can hear is my ring tone; Suzanne Henderson, teacher;
- Between a rock and a hard place: caught between two virulent approaches to faith; Will Terry, teacher;
- The spirituality of Abraham Lincoln; Alice Richey, teacher.

“Negotiating Career Challenges: Tools to Manage Stress and Seize Opportunities” will continue next Sunday, November 23 in FH 207. Open to church members and the community, leaders Allan Bacon and Doug Bacon will address the topics of preparing for change and identifying one’s purpose in and outside of work. Allan and Doug are brothers who have successfully, pro-actively found 14 jobs in the last 15 years; been through three lay-offs; have sold a company and started a company. For additional information contact Mark Diehl (mark.diehl@covenantpresby.org or 704-804-7572).

“Ordination Questions for Elders” will be offered on Sunday, December 7 9:30 AM, FH 207. Open to all, this class will be taught by Bob Henderson.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Thanksgiving: A family-friendly worship service takes place at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 25 in the Covenant Sanctuary. This will be a joint service with the congregation of C. N. Jenkins Presbyterian Church with the sermon by its senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Jerry Cannon. During the service, “white gifts” of non-perishable food items wrapped in white paper will be collected for Loaves & Fishes. Dinner will be served, [by reservation](#), in Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30. Child care available for ages 5 and under.

Christmas Crafts: Wednesday, December 3, at Covenant Connection. [Dinner reservations](#) needed by Monday, December 1. Crafts will be purchased with pre-paid tickets, so bring cash or a check to purchase tickets. Pre-order table-top advent wreath kits by Sunday, November 23. Cost: \$13. Forms are available on the green, and [on the church web site](#).

Purchase a ticket for a private performance of the Charlotte Symphony’s “Magic of Christmas” on Thursday, December 4 at the Blumenthal, hosted by the Presbyterian Foundation. A portion of proceeds are distributed to individual churches based on the number of seats purchased by their members. Tickets are available through the symphony

box office. For more information, call 1-800-856-6127, ext. 5904 or visit www.PresbyterianFoundation.org.

RESOURCES

Recorded telephone devotions are available by calling 704-333-0000.

Printed transcripts and audio files of sermons preached on Sunday mornings at Covenant Church, as well as selected pastoral prayers and Wednesday meditations, are available on the church’s web site: www.covenantpresby.org (“[Hear and Read Sermons](#)” link).

BEARING GIFTS

The 2008 congregational Advent devotion book

Members of the Covenant congregation and staff have once again contributed personal devotions for the seasons of Advent and Christmastide; and Martha Isaacs has once again gathered them into a printed booklet for sharing with the entire congregation. The booklet will be available for pick-up, free of charge, beginning on Sunday morning, November 30 (the first Sunday of Advent).

Additionally, the devotion book will be posted in its entirety on the Covenant web site. And, for those who express an interest, individual devotions contained in the booklet can be sent by daily e-mail. If you would like to receive these e-mails throughout the holiday season, please send your name and e-mail address to Sally Graves in the church office (sally.graves@covenantpresby.org).

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Top 10 reasons why you should become a Stephen Minister

Reason #2: Stephen Ministry is a life changing experience

Have you ever avoided approaching a person who was hurting because you “didn’t know what to say”? We all have. But Stephen Ministers **know** what to say and how to act. They are trained to respond compassionately and respectfully when others need them, and they feel confident in their care giving skills. Stephen Ministers are the first to respond when neighbors, family members, and co-workers need someone to talk to. Want to sign up or ask questions? Contact [Mark Diehl](#) (704-804-7572), [Judy White](#) (704-804-7561) or Stephen leader [Irene Carroll](#) (704-552-8768).

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT CHURCH

Sunday, November 16

3:00 PM Chamber Music Chapel

Monday, November 17

6:00 PM Adult Education Committee FH 105

6:00 PM Communications Committee SB 131

6:00 PM Recreation Ministries Comm. EW 212

7:00 PM Worship Committee FH 105

7:00 PM Div. of Educ'n Leadership Team FH 201

Tuesday, November 18

9:30 AM PW Bible Moderators SB 131

7:00 PM Committee on Assignments SB 131

7:00 PM Stephen Ministries Committee FH 105

Wednesday, November 19

11:00 AM Alternative Gift Market (until 2) FH

12:00 Noon Worship Service Chapel

12:30 PM Elementary Education Comm. FH 201

5:30 PM Covenant Connection FH

Alternative Gift Market FH

7:30 PM Health & Wellness Committee EW 212

Thursday, November 20

9:00 AM Sr. Connections Depart
for Day Trip to Newberry, SC Parking Lot

12:00 N Stewardship Committee SB 131

Friday, November 21

11:30 AM Preschool Thanksgiving FH

6:00 PM Quest Cardboard City On the Green

Saturday, November 22

10:00 AM Homeless Awareness Walk 500 Spratt St.

NOTE: Standing weekly meetings are not included in this calendar.

Please silence digital watches, pagers and mobile phones.