

# COVENANT CONNECTIONS

## News of New Covenant Baptist Church

209 N. Prospect Street, Pottstown, PA 19464

Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

(610) 323-0385

E-mail: [ncbc@dejazzd.com](mailto:ncbc@dejazzd.com)

Web address: [www.newcovbc.org](http://www.newcovbc.org)

July & August 2008

Doris Weigner, Editor

### COVENANT CONNECTIONS

The July/August issue of *Covenant Connections* is sponsored by Joe & Sherri Garnett in celebration of their wedding anniversary on August 22.



#### DRY-DOCKED FISHERMEN

There is one who leaves his family, possessions, and the safety of his home daily. He rises early in the morning, prepares himself for the day's work and shoves his frail craft into the salty Atlantic.

He has one goal for the day! He will search for and catch fish!

All along South America's vast coast lie tiny fishing villages, their shores lined with seafaring vessels of every sort. Beginning at four in the afternoon and ranging until well after sundown, you can watch them return home laden with their catches.

The fisherman is a hardy man. His hands would feel much out of place around a pen. His feet would hurt in shoes. His skin is tough and bronzed through years of work in the wind and the sun. His courage is repeatedly tested by the many hazards of the open sea.

There are others similar to the fisherman. They also set aside possessions, family and life. They, too, rise early in the morning to prepare their life for the day. And they, likewise, venture deep into the sea with a single purpose in mind. They are God's servants.

Their sea is the community where they serve. Their preparation is that of devoted prayer. The fish they seek are men and women. And they fish day after day in the roughest of seas.

God's servants are also hardy! They have been toughened by the afflictions they have faced as a person and as a helper of others. **But are they fishing?** In spite of that driving sense of commission felt in the early days of Christian service, the pastor can all too easily allow well-intentioned but unessential extras become more consuming of their energy than the original purpose to which Christ called them - *to rescue humanity from sin!*

Instead of seeking men and women, they can quite easily seek success. In place of fishing, they go a-straying. Burdened with roles they falsely believe their profession demands, they become a business manager, chief of maintenance, recruiter for church offices, social butterfly, head of protocol, and incidentally, preacher. Then, preaching sermons hastily prepared and finally a stranger to their families. Too many pastors have become too busy doing church work that they have little time to do Christ's work...fishing. They no longer go to sea; for you see, they have become marooned fishermen.

I am writing this knowing it won't be very long before you have a new senior pastor. And I desire to see you guard his time so he will have ample time to fish and to teach you how to fish effectively. WHY? Because the pastor who knows how to fish and how to teach his flock how to fish will flourish and grow. And that's what Jesus wants for NCBC.

*Pastor Ron*

## Sermon Series for July and August

July 6	<i>The End of the Story</i> Genesis 47-50
July 13	<i>Life Changing Choices</i> Exodus 2:1-10
July 20	<i>The Success of Failure</i> Exodus 2:16-25
July 27	<i>God's School of Self-Discovery</i> Exodus 3:1 & Deuteronomy 32:10
August 3	<i>To Be or <b>KNOT</b> To Be: Attitudes</i> Exodus 3:13-4:31
August 10	<i>Doing God's Will God's Way</i> Exodus 4:18-31
August 17	Rev. Jim Sutton
August 24	<i>Our Predictable Predicaments</i> Exodus 14:1-31
August 31	<i>What I Want You to Remember</i> II Timothy 3:16-17

## **WORSHIP MINISTRY AREA**

A special thanks to all who have helped to keep the music flowing during our time of looking for a new Worship Leader and Coordinator. I have great news!! We now have that position filled. Our new Worship Leader and Coordinator is Sheryl Johnson. We are so happy to have her accept this position. It made my work a lot easier! Sheryl will be able to start mid-August. We will continue as planned up until then. I believe the sound system and projector system in back is running good now. We need some additional people to sing on the worship team, so we can rotate two teams. If interested, please see me. As our music schedule changes, I will hand out the updated schedule for singing and practicing.

Gifts of flowers were handed out on Mother's Day, and a chocolate candy bar was given to the men on Father's Day. The children took part in the worship service on Children's Day and we had a visit from Jonah as well. The children received a gift that day, too.

A baptism service is scheduled for Sunday, July 13 at 3 PM (note time change) at Parkerford Baptist Church. The following will be baptized: Donna Fulmer, Aaron Leh, Angela Leh and Jason Leh.

We are planning to have an outdoor worship service on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is also the day of our picnic. Come in casual dress.

In the fall (Sept. - Nov.) we would like to have a special music event or talent show. Anyone who has

some suggestions or idea, please get in touch with me.

I've appreciated all the support the first two quarters of this year. Let's pray we will continue to have a great Worship Ministry the second half of this year. *Sherri Garnett*

## **DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY AREA**

### **Neighborhood Jubilee**

New Covenant will host a series of fun family events for the community beginning on Wednesday evening July 30<sup>th</sup> and running through Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We are excited to host Bill Scott, puppeteer on Wednesday evening; WOOFI, the missionary puppy, on Thursday evening and on Friday the newly released Veggie Tale movie, *The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything* will be shown. There is no charge; bring a friend or neighbor. These events will each begin at 7 PM.



Plan to join us again on Saturday, August 2 from 10 am - 2 pm for face painting, crafts, live music, clowns and more. A blood mobile will be on site and CHIPs will provide free fingerprinting for the kids. All

activities are free. Hot dogs, sodas, and clown photos with your child will be available for sale with proceeds benefiting New Covenant's outreach ministry. Please see me for more information. *Molly Dixon*

## **FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY AREA**

We would like to thank Gwen MacNeill for preparing all the pasta for our 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday dinner on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone had a great time and such good food! Thank you, Gwen.

For July, each of you is encouraged to enjoy a vacation, but be sure to worship in God's house wherever you are. Then when you return home, don't forget to return to NCBC.

Wonderful preparations are being made for August. The first Sunday in August will be a picnic here at the church. It will be the ending of the Neighborhood Jubilee. Much is being planned for that weekend. Please be aware of all the announcements. Plan to participate in at least some of the activities.

*Naomi Geiger*

## SERVICE MINISTRY AREA

The new roof is on and looks great. We now have new gutter guards as well. Thanks to all who have donated to the cause. If you haven't given, but would like to, we are still accepting donations.



I am still looking for people to help me on this Service Ministry. If interested, please see me. If you are able to spend a couple hours, or a day or two of your time there is a lot of work that still needs to be done. If you need supplies, contact me and I will make sure you have what you need to complete the job.

Then sign off the job completed. There is an up-to-date "Things to Do" work list on the back table in the sanctuary.

Sometime in the near future there will be some renovations going on downstairs in Fellowship Hall. A wall will be removed and bi-fold doors added to make an opening between two of the smaller rooms. This way we can use it as one big room as needed for the children or for meetings. The kitchen wall will have an opening put in with a counter for coffee, beverages, and some food. This will slow down the traffic going in and out of the kitchen and make everything more accessible.

If you see something that needs repair, etc. please let me know. Thanks for all the help I have received.

*Joe Garnett*

## FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee is pleased to present Rev. James Sutton to the congregation. A Meet and Greet Evening is planned for Saturday, August 16, 2008 at 7 PM for all to meet and talk with him. Please plan to attend Saturday night and again on Sunday morning at 10:30 AM to hear Rev. Sutton preach to our congregation. There will be a brief business meeting after the service to vote on his call as our new pastor.

Rev. Sutton is a graduate of Eastern University and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1986 by ABC. He served as senior pastor at Hatboro Baptist church for 17 years. He and his wife, Tracy, are the parents of four grown children.

If you have any questions please ask any of the Search Committee members: Linda Whittington, Rich MacNeill, Molly Dixon or Jo Ann Quaglia.

## ROOF FUND

We had some money transfers into the Roof Fund. There was \$792.59 in the Dunlap Fund and \$231.54 in the Sign Fund. These monies were transferred into the Roof Fund. In addition, \$395 had been given to the church in memory of Bill Baker. Edwardine graciously agreed to donate this money to the Roof Fund. Thank you, Edwardine. As of June 23, we've received \$6,460.13 toward the new roof and gutter guard on the rain spouts. The total bill was \$9,850. Contributions are still being accepted!

## SECRETARIAL JOB

Our church secretary, Doris Weigner, has announced her intention to retire from her job as church secretary at the end of September. If you know of anyone who would be interested in a ten hour a week job, please contact Harry Weigner (610 367-2099). If you want information about the job, see Doris.

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please make the following correction to your church directory:

Angela & Jason Leh                      610 970-1217  
4 Farmington Court, Pottstown, PA 19464

## SUMMER VACATIONS



We all enjoy being able to get away from our daily routine in the summer. However, our church expenses don't stop just because we're away.

Please maintain your financial support even if you aren't in church. Thanks a million!

## THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

Received 5/15/08

To the congregation of New Covenant Baptist:

Thank you so much for the use of your meeting space. We really appreciate it!! ☺ (Included with the note was a check for \$100.)

*Mom's Club of Pottstown/Pottsgrove*

I want to thank everyone for all they have done for me while I've been recovering from my knee surgery. I appreciate all the prayers, cards, calls (and brownies)!

In Christian Love,  
*Joe Garnett*

## ABCOPAD INFORMATION



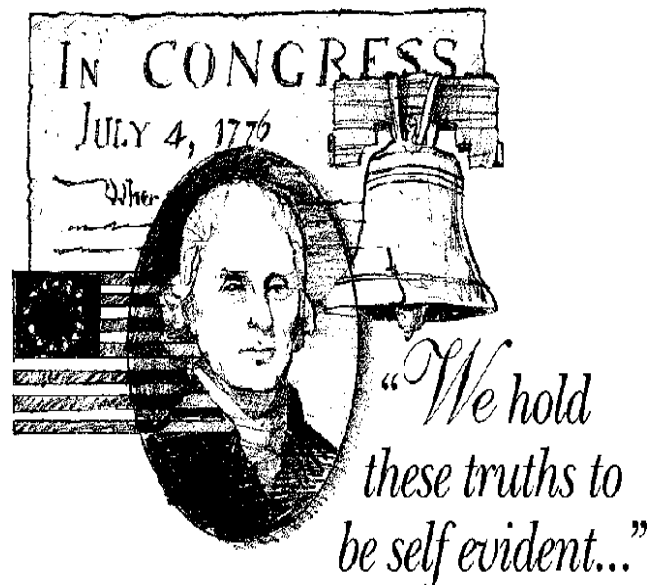
"In our culture, it seems like everyone has a specialty. If your car needs repairs, is it the engine, a muffler, or brakes? Are you going to the store for produce or do you want meat and poultry? If it's paper products you need, you probably head to one of the wholesale stores. It can be quite a job to find the right place for all your needs. American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD) has a solution for this endless searching. Have you been to the ABCOPAD website [www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org)? Are you interested in Student Ministries' events around ABCOPAD? Are your children considering camp? Do you want to know how your church's mission giving compares to the other churches in your association? ... Do you have a prayer request that you would like to share with prayer warriors around the region? ... Did you hear someone mention a Habitat project right here in Pennsylvania and you'd like to know how you could help? Visit the ABCOPAD website regularly. Stay in touch with your regional American Baptist family [www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org)."

*Caryl J. Casey, ABCOPAD Treasurer*

## The Leanin' Tree

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old deacon who always prayed, Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side. After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently. He answered, 'Well sir, you see, it's like this...I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time, it's withstood a lot of weather, it's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years. It's still standing. But one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about that and how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time. I've withstood a lot of life's storms. I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life, I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning, at times.

Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't. So we need to pray, 'Lord, prop us up on our leaning side, so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify the Lord."



# News Around the Congregation



## July

8 Patrick Wieand  
18 Taniah Buckner  
19 Joyce Parson  
25 Gwen MacNeill  
26 Sheryl Johnson

## August

14 Pam Krepps  
17 Maurice Yanney  
29 Brianna Loston



## August

11 Fred Mozenter & Deb Graner  
14 Harry & Doris Weigner  
22 Joe & Sherri Garnett

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.



- Our shut-ins: Joan Achenbach, Lois Beideman, Catherine Blank, Irene Quaglia, and Sally Shaner
- Joyce Sherman – recovering from hip replacement surgery
- Jim Sherman – recovering from knee replacement surgery
- Tracy Williams – personal issues
- Bill Buckner – health concerns
- Linda Noecker – job search
- Rodolph Yanney – health concerns (Maurice's father)
- Jim Searfoss – health concerns (friend of Harry & Doris Weigner)
- Mark Stranick – health concerns (Doris Weigner's cousin)
- Joe & Laura Banasiak – health concerns and that they'll come to know and accept Christ (Jo Ann Quaglia)
- Joe Garnett – recovering from knee replacement surgery
- Soltis family (friends of Ruppert's)
- For the safety of overseas missionaries –especially Dale, Flo, Caleb & Joel Johnson in Burkina Faso, Africa
- Leaders of ABC-USA
- People serving in the armed services—at home and abroad
- President Bush and the other leaders of our country

Congratulations to Amanda Ruppert and Tyler Dixon for earning their black belt in taekwondo karate. Way to go Amanda & Tyler!

### TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH JUNE 15

(any questions, see Ann Edwards)

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income	\$5,796.25	\$61,175.83
Expense	\$3,624.17	\$63,043.86 (\$1,868.03)
Roof Income	\$6,460.13	Expenses \$ 9,850.00 (\$3,339.87)