

# COVENANT CONNECTIONS

## News of New Covenant Baptist Church

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May & June 2008

Doris Weigner, Editor

### COVENANT CONNECTIONS

The May/June issue of *Covenant Connections* is sponsored by **Frank & Naomi Geiger** in celebration of their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on May 4 and **Edwardine Baker** in loving memory of her mother, Edwardine Shoemaker, whose birthday would have been on June 14.

*From the  
Pastor's  
Pen* 

#### SEVEN REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD KNOW PEACE

The disciples were facing a crisis as they gathered in the Upper Room to celebrate the Passover. It was the night before the crucifixion. They had just learned that Christ was going to leave them, and that they could not follow Him now. One of their number was to betray Him, and another would deny his Lord three times before morning.

The need for inner peace, adjustment to the plan of God, and willingness to trust the Lord completely was never more evident. In answer to their deep-seated need, Christ in John 14 unfolded SEVEN REASONS why a Christian in time of trouble can have peace.

**FIRST**, peace is a result of faith in God and, more particularly, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ: "Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me." There can be no peace without faith!

**SECOND**, peace depends upon the certainty of hope. Christ told them that He was going to the Father's house to prepare a place for them, and promised:

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." There can be no peace without hope of heaven!

**THIRD**, peace depends upon knowing Christ as the Savior and way to heaven. Christ said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me." There can be no peace without the knowledge of salvation!

**FOURTH**, peace depends upon confidence in our heavenly Father, His love and faithfulness. Jesus said: "He that has seen me has seen the Father." There can be no peace without assurance of our heavenly Father's love and care!

**FIFTH**, peace rests in God's power to answer prayer as we cast our need upon Him. Christ told His disciples, "If you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." There can be no peace without assurance of answered prayer!

**SIXTH**, peace is a fruit or a work of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Jesus said: "I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever...He will dwell with you, and shall be in you." There can be no peace apart from the Holy Spirit!

**SEVENTH**, the peace that kept the heart and mind of Christ on the night preceding His crucifixion is God's gift to His own. As Christ said: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." There is no peace without divine grace!

These aspects of peace result from faith in God, intelligent hope for life to come, the knowledge of salvation in Christ now, knowing our

Heavenly Father, entering into the experience of answered prayer, fellowship with the Comforter, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and receiving as God's gift this indescribably supernatural peace. They are God's wonderful provision for His own and make possible the peace of heaven in the heart even in the midst of the deepest trials of earth.

*Pastor Ron*

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### **Sermon Series for May and June**

- May 4                    *The Meaning of Friendship with God*  
James 2:23
- May 11 (Mothers' Day) *The Power of a Praying Mother*  
I Samuel 1:9-11, 20 and 24-28
- Series: Integrity's Man: Joseph
- May 18                    *The Pathos of Passivity*  
Genesis 34:30
- May 25                    *Victimized, Yet Victorious*  
Genesis 39:21-23
- June 1                     Guest Speaker
- June 8 (Children's Day) *Children: God's Special Gifts*  
Matthew 18:1-6
- June 15                   *Curing a Calloused Conscience*  
Genesis 42:1-28
- June 22                   *Attitudes Measure Greatness*  
Genesis 44:1-34
- June 29                   *Too Good to Be True*  
Genesis 45:16-28

### **WORSHIP MINISTRY AREA**

We've had a lot of challenges with the Worship Ministry Teams these past couple of months. Since Erica Yanney left, we've all come together to keep the music going during the worship services. A special thanks to Joyce Parson for playing a couple times a month, Blake Edwards for running the DVD's on other Sunday's, Joyce Paregian (substitute) playing a few times in the next couple of months, Ann Edwards for getting the music in the folders, Sheryl Johnson for picking the songs for Joyce Paregian, and to Joe Garnett for running the Worship Team sound system. Thanks also to Bill Buckner and Blake Edwards for working together to get the sound system in back along with the projector system to run smoothly. It has worked out very well. Everyone came together and helped out. I had a team picked to work on advertising for a new Worship Coordinator/Worship Leader. I was overwhelmed about this whole project, since I was part of the interviewing when we choose Erica Yanney. I knew

there would be a lot of work to do. Then one day someone told me they would consider that position, and be our first candidate. I was so grateful. It was like a heavy weight lifted off my shoulders. More info will be available as Joyce and I work out all the details with that person and the final decision. We should have everything in place by our June business meeting.

Again, we are looking for singers for the worship team on Sunday mornings. Please get in touch with me if you are interested, or request an updated music schedule, and just show up for a practice. I would like to have a rotating list for the Worship Team, so we know who is singing which Sunday's. Thanks to all the new people that have showed interest in singing on the team. We always welcome your own solo, duets, trio and whenever possible. Thank you, Lucy, for singing for us.

The Easter flowers this year added a special touch with the tulips.

Remember Mother's Day is coming up soon, then Father's Day and some special events for Children's Day.

Thanks again to all for the dedication and support. God Bless You. *Sherri Garnett*

### **DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY AREA**



We will be recognizing the following graduates on June 8:

**Katie Bates**, daughter of Lance and Joyce Parson will receive her Master of Arts degree in Clinical Counseling with certification in elementary guidance from Immaculata University. She hopes to get a job in a school district as a guidance counselor. In the future, she'd like to go back to school to get her certification in Applied Behavior Analysis.

**Emily Brokaw**, daughter of Rev. Tom and Dorothea Brokaw, will be graduating from the Boyertown Area Senior High School on June 11. She plans to attend Misericordia University in

Dallas, PA to receive her master's degree in speech-language pathology.

**Gwen MacNeill** will be getting her Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW) from Marywood University on May 11. She plans on continuing her role as Trauma Social Worker at The Reading Hospital and Medical Center. She will also be taking her Licensing Exam to be a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) in the next few months. She will then begin the journey of doing 3,600 clinical supervised hours over the next 6 years, (and yes---another exam) so that she can obtain her LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) with a focus on grief and bereavement of child, adolescents and family. She wants to work with children, adolescents and families who have experienced grief, bereavement, loss and trauma. "I finally decided what I want to be when I grow up!!!!"

**Bridget Parson**, daughter of Lance & Joyce Parson, will earn her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from West Chester University. She has accepted at job at Main Line Health (Paoli Hospital) as an RN on the Telemetry (heart) unit.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to these four people as they face new challenges in their lives.

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### Neighborhood Jubilee: Mark your calendar!

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.

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 Molly Dixon for more information. *Molly Dixon*

## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY AREA

Our First Sunday Fellowship for May will be a hoagie luncheon. There was a sign-up sheet to order

hoagies. Thanks to Roxanne Leh for making these hoagies at her deli.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> we will be celebrating fathers with a pasta luncheon provided by Gwen MacNeill. There will be a sign-up sheet for salad, rolls and desserts. *Naomi Geiger*

## SERVICE MINISTRY AREA

The new roof should be started very soon, now that the warmer weather is here. Thanks to everyone who has donated to the cause--and in advance to those who will be donating

Spring Work Day went very well, with an attendance of 14 people who came out to help. Naomi Geiger provided breakfast. Roxanne Leh and Gwen MacNeill provided lunch. A BIG thanks to all the volunteers. Thanks to Barry Pennington for cleaning the grounds on the church property earlier in the week. An updated "To-do list" remains on the back table in the sanctuary. A lot of cleaning and organizing took place. Maintenance items still remain to be done. We still need volunteers to sign up for the Service Ministry Team. If you can help serve God at NCBC in this way, please sign up. The list is on the back table in the sanctuary.

The upstairs room can now be used. The facilities are in working order again. The room can be used for mothers if they need to bring their children up there, or a meeting room. We will be working on the speaker in that room to get it in working order, so the sermon can be heard up there.

If anyone can come out during the week and do some work that is still needed to be done in and around the church, please contact me and let me know what project you will be working on. *Joe Garnett*

## ROOF FUND



You may have heard that New Covenant is getting a new roof. Church Council decided the best way to pay for the roof, since it hadn't been budgeted,

would be to have a "Roof Fund Drive." Our goal is to raise the \$10,000 by June. Please pray about how you can help with this task. You may either use your regular envelope or one of the white ones in the chair pockets. Put "Roof Fund" on the envelope so it gets credited to the proper account. To date we have raised \$2610 (as of 4/13). Thanks a million!

## ENVISIONING WORKSHOP

On Sunday, May 4, the people of New Covenant will be holding an Envisioning Workshop to see where we have come from, where we are as a church, and where we are headed. A group has been meeting with Pastor Ron for over a year to answer these questions. Now they need your help. Please plan to stay after the First Sunday Fellowship and help your leaders make some decisions about the future of NCBC. Child care will be provided.



Congratulations to Pastor Ron & Judy Kuntz on the birth of their 7th grandchild, Liam Coll MacDonald, on March 20 in Abington Hospital. Liam is the son of Paul & Debbie (Kuntz) MacDonald, and the 12<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild of Elmer & Thelma Kuntz. Liam weighed in at 7 lbs., 8 ounces and was 12-1/2" long. Pastor Ron says everyone is very healthy and content, for now.

## THANK YOU NOTE RECEIVED

Dear Friends at New Covenant:

Thank you so much for the \$50 donation you made to our roof fund in memory of my mother, Doris Bickel. Your thoughtfulness in remembering her is greatly appreciated. Thanks to for all the caring shown to us and the prayers on our behalf during her final journey. The support from our friends has been a tremendous help.

Thanks, too, to Pastor Ron for taking part in her memorial service and doing "Remembering Doris." His words were very meaningful to us.

In His grip,  
*Doris Weigner*

## Church Humor

- A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."
- A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said the father, "What does the Bible mean?" That's easy, Daddy," the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for **Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.**"
- Sunday after a church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said, "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."
- The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances." During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected, and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the substitute organist played *The Star Spangled Banner*. And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

# One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Invitation to Give

May 2008

Dear New Covenant Congregation,

The call to give comes regularly within church life: annual stewardship drives and capital campaigns, mission trips, church equipment, special holiday events and missions, local projects, etc. Each giving opportunity challenges us anew to comprehend the importance of our participation, to see past numbers and amounts, and on to the practice of praise inherent in the act of giving.

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,” encouraged the writer of Hebrews to the community of faith. The call was a personal reminder that our actions as Christians speak more loudly than our words and worship services. God desires our participation in the lives of others. Jesus pointedly made this expectation when He told His followers, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matt 25:40 NRSV)

The “...least of these...” live in and also far beyond our community. Our lives intersect with many more lives than they once did – and God’s call to share what we have encompasses more people. There are people fleeing violence in Sudan, suffering from AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, trying to recover from tornadoes in our nation, struggling to manage with rising gasoline and heating oil prices, and many other ways. We are called to help make a difference in the lives of these people. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering helps to make a difference.

Gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering support programs that help families around the world build lives and communities that are healthy, safe, and sustainable. The offering:

- helps rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters;
- creates sustainable sources of income for rural villages;
- provides micro-credit to women to start poverty-escaping businesses;
- teaches trades and job skills;
- offers children a chance to survive past the age of 5 and go to school,
- and much more.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering gives each of us an additional opportunity to respond to God’s call to share what we have in kindness, compassion, and mercy in most every part of the globe. These kinds of actions gladden the heart of God who promises those who respond, that they “...shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.” (Isaiah 58.11 NRSV)

During the month of June 2008, our congregation is invited to participate in giving generously to this offering to help meet our congregation goal of \$300.00. Remember, your gift to this offering should always be over and above any regular giving to the church that you already do. To give to this offering in any other way will just succeed in cutting funds short to some other worthy ministry of the church. Thanks for your prayerful and generous gifts of love to the 2008 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

Blake E. Edwards, Coordinator  
Missions/Evangelism Ministry Area

# NEWS AROUND THE CONGREGATION



**May**

**June**

- 1 Tracy Williams
- 5 Ann Edwards
- 8 Bridget Parson
- 11 Blake Edwards
- 18 Jason Dixon

- 3 Chuck Kent
- 4 Sally Shaner
- 5 Rev. Ron Kuntz
- 15 Justin Wieand
- 28 Sam Geiger
- 30 Harry Weigner

**May**

- 4 Frank & Naomi Geiger
- 13 Blake & Ann Edwards
- 14 Andy & Wanda Ruppert
- 14 Kevin & Sherry Wieand
- 31 Gerald & Pam Krepps

**June**

- 21 Kevin & Katie Bates
- 23 Lance & Joyce Parson
- 29 Tom & Sheryl Johnson

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
- Tracy Williams – personal issues
- Bill Buckner – health concerns
- Naomi Geiger
- 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)
- 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
- Sympathy to the family of Bill Baker
- Sympathy to the family of Margaret Musson
- Sympathy to the family of Doris Bickel (Doris Weigner’s mother)

**TREASURER’S REPORT THROUGH APRIL 15**

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
Income	\$4,969.78	\$28,794.76	
Expense	\$4,855.70	\$26,892.63	
Roof	\$1,590.00	\$ 2,610.00	Goal: \$10,000