

COVENANT CONNECTIONS

News of New Covenant Baptist Church

209 N. Prospect Street, Pottstown, PA 19464

Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

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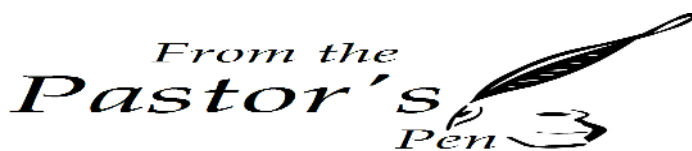
Web address: www.newcovbc.org

November & December 2008

Angela Leh, Editor

COVENANT CONNECTIONS

The November/December issue of *Covenant Connections* is sponsored Jason & Angela Leh in honor of Dave & Roxanne Leh's anniversary & birthdays in November and in honor of Ciera King's 13th birthday in December.



Rejoice in the Lord always again I will say it rejoice. At first glance that would seem to come from the lips of someone sitting on top of the world with everything going right. However, when Paul wrote those words to some of his closest friends he was enjoying nothing that we would consider wonderful. He had no certainty of a pleasant future, he was awaiting decisions that would determine if he had any future at all and yet he was still able to find reasons to celebrate. He had no guarantee of a beautiful tomorrow, he was certain though in his eternal forever because of the faithfulness of Jesus. As we approach the time of the year when we as a nation celebrate Thanksgiving, and we as the church of Jesus Christ celebrate His birth- there are plenty of reasons for us not to feel thankful or want to celebrate anything. Depressing economic news isn't something for the 11 o'clock news we feel it as it directly hits our families, the war in the Middle East doesn't seem to have an end in sight, and after the presidential election is decided we will have about half of our nation unhappy with the results no matter who wins. With all of that and more in mind how are we supposed to be grateful and joyful? Are Paul's words and sentiments still viable or do we read them

almost as an unfunny joke from a different time that has no connection to our present condition? What I know is that there have always been horrible times throughout history. Jesus' ministry took place while his country was occupied and ruled by a foreign pagan power. Paul wrote some of the most passionately positive letters ever known while he was in the custody of that country's legal system. The church of Jesus grew despite alienation, persecution and even executions. That knowledge by itself does not take away our present pain and loss. It does not 'make everything nice' for us creating instant unity or peace. It does, however, allow us to look back a long time and see God at work then which can encourage us to look ahead with a better understanding of what God's faithfulness means for us in the future.

The urging from Paul is for believers to rejoice when we feel like it- and more importantly when it makes no sense to do so. We are a blessed people, sometimes we are aware of it, many times we are not, but that lack of awareness does not negate the blessings. You are loved by the God of all eternity who chose to enter this world in the most unlikely of forms- that of an infant. Many people will celebrate the day, without knowing the reason. They will appreciate the day off without truly being thankful for the real gift. As believers in Jesus Christ we have the opportunity to accept the love of God and rejoice because we get to know the Savior who has given us the greatest gift of all- Himself. I pray that we may truly rejoice in that truth as we share that good news with everyone we know.

Blessings,
Pastor Jim

Sermon Series for November & December

November 2	The Eucharist- Really! Luke 22:14-20
November 9	A Minister of Celebration 1 Chronicles 16:1-4
November 16	Thanks for the pre-memories Daniel 2:20--23
November 23	Thanksgiving – A day or a way? <i>Psalm 100</i>
November 30	A view from the top Isaiah 2:1-5
December 7	No time like the present Romans 13:10-12
December 14	All right in a wrong world Isaiah 11:1-5
December 21	Regular people, amazing God Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 24	High, low and everything in between Luke 2:1-4
December 28	Great Expectations Isaiah 35:3-8

WORSHIP MINISTRY AREA

I would like to welcome Angela Leh to our Worship Team. If you can sing and would like to join our worship team please see Sherri Garnett or Sheryl Johnson. Practices are Wed. evenings at 7:30pm and 10am on Sundays we warm up for the service.

Our new sound system in the back of the sanctuary seems to be working very well. Thanks to Blake Edwards for coordinating the updating of the system. The portable system will be used for outside events.

Harvest Home is coming up in November, so get those canned goods ready to be donated for a holiday meal to the Cluster in Pottstown. We will have a list soon published in the bulletin.



December 6th we will have Jim and Wendy Allshouse sing for us. They will do a Christmas concert as well as some Gospel and some Contemporary music. Please invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors. Mark this on your calendar and come out for a great evening. Refreshments will be served after the concert. They sang many years ago at New Covenant, and we are glad to have them back.

December 6th (after the Christmas breakfast) we would like all to stay and help put up and decorate the tree in the sanctuary, and other decorating

downstairs and outside as well. If you have any Christmas decorations you would like to donate or let us borrow, that would be greatly appreciated. We will be lighting the outside of the church with lights on the ground shining upward. If you have any of those lights bring them in.

If you have any concerns or suggestions for this worship ministry please let me know.

Sherri Garnett, Worship Ministry Coordinator

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY AREA

“Rejoice in the Lord always, Again, I say rejoice”
(Phillippians 4:4)

Pastor Jim has started a new Sunday School class on 10/5 on the book of Philippians. The class meets weekly at 9:30am in the adult Sunday School Room behind the sanctuary. Come and join us as we study Paul's letter of happiness to his Christian friends during his difficult time in prison. An example of Christ as our strength and joy through suffering.

Mrs Geiger has started a Sunday School class for 6th-9th grade. This class meets downstairs from 9:30am-10:15am. Bring your friends and share in the fun discovery of heros vs zeros.

Home Groups wanted! We have one Home Group weekly at the Sherman's Home. But there is always room for more.....If you have an interest in participating in a Home Group or if you have the willingness to lead a Home Group, please see Molly Dixon. If you need a home where your group can meet, we have a welcoming one in mind.

Good News! We now have childcare available for the Infants and Toddlers during the worship service. There is a sign up sheet for anyone who is experienced and gifted with caring for our youngest children. We also have a worship room available for parents who would like to participate in the service with their children without distracting from the worship of others. If you are blessed with patience and love for God and children, consider being a teacher. Our youngsters are always in need of role models to help them grow and develop into adult Christians and the future of our church.

The Veggie Tales are coming to Pottstown. The newest movie, “The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything”

will be shown here at NCBC on November 15th at 7pm at no charge. Please come early and get a good seat. Bring a friend. There will be popcorn, prizes, and pirates.

Mark your Calendars now for the Christmas Program on Sunday evening 12/21 at 7pm.

Stay Tuned for dates and times for the photo opportunity of a lifetime! NCBC is planning a photo directory. We will be taking your picture for our directory over the next few weeks. You are welcome to dress in your fanciest attire for the occasion but we really want to recognize you and your family from your photo. So just come as you are and be prepared to smile. We can't forget our shut-ins and college students; We will plan a visit with our camera to see you or you can submit a digital photo of yourself to be included. More information will be available very soon. See Molly Dixon with any questions.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me"
(Philippians 4:13)

Molly Dixon, Discipleship Coordinator

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY AREA

December Gathering: Our December gathering will be Saturday December 1st a Christmas breakfast for everyone. After breakfast the adults will decorate the sanctuary while the children decorate downstairs. Children will be making things also for our shut-ins. There will be a sign up sheet for the breakfast on the back table shortly. Everyone is invited to come out and start your Saturday at the church at 8:30am

Naomi Geiger, Fellowship Coordinator

SERVICE MINISTRY AREA

The renovations have started downstairs. There is still a lot of work to be done. When you are available to help call Joe Garnett on his cell 267-312-5780.

The parking lot and driveways will be repaired and sealed shortly.

We are still waiting for an estimate to come in on getting the trees trimmed of dead branches.



Fall Work Day is scheduled for November 22nd at 9am, so mark your calendar. There is work for everyone to do - inside and outside.

Joe Garnett, Service Coordinator

MISSION/EVANGELISM TEAM

During the month of October 2008, our congregation has the opportunity to participate by means of giving financial gifts to the American Baptist Churches/USA World Mission Offering. Our congregational goal is \$500.00 and the funds given will be used by the ABC Board of International Ministries to help support the cost of about 2,500 full-time and part-time missionaries ministering in more than 70 countries outside the United States. That is a large ministry enterprise and with the help of other ABC congregations giving to the same offering, a lot of funds can and will be made available to help meet such a costly need. Even though our nation is presently going through very hard economical times, please be encouraged to openly pray as to what degree God would have you give generously to the offering and allow Him to supply your needs to make such a generous gift.

And please remember, now that October is history, we have one month to get ready for our next ABC Offering, the Ministers and Missionaries "Thank You" during December. Sometime during November, all of the congregation will receive the specifics of this offering.

Thanks for your generous prayerful financial gifts to Christ's ministry.

THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

September 2, 2008

Hi All!

It was January 31st 2007 when I retired from First Baptist Church, Bethlehem. But we knew full well it would be short lived because pastoring our Lord's flock runs thick in both Judy's and my blood. So on March 1st in that year we accepted the call to come to NCBC as your Interim. And what a joy it has been.

I want to thank you all for the love, energy, kindness, cooperation and support you have shown me during these past eighteen months. Further, I want to thank you again for the luncheon and surprise gifts that were given to myself and Judy. My prayer is you will exhibit the same for Pastor Sutton and his wife as they

begin shepherding you tomorrow. We trust it will be a fruitful and lengthy ministry together. God Bless YOU ALL!

With much love,
Ron & Judy

Just an added note: Pastor Ron is now the Senior Pastor at the First Baptist Church in Nesquehoning. He really missed being "pastor" after all. We pray he is very happy there!

Dear Members and Friends:

Thank you for accepting us as members of your church for 18 months. Also for the love you gave to Ron and Judy. We pray God will bless you as you support your new pastor.

Our love and prayers,
Elmer & Thelma Kuntz

October 27, 2008

Dear New Covenant Baptist Church,
Thank you for the beautiful flowers sent to Mom's funeral. They were a thoughtful expression of your love and caring for mom as well as for the family.

Sincerely,

The Swanson Family
(enclosed was a \$25.00 donation given in memorial to Bonita Swanson from her nephew and his wife Elwood and Betty Swanson.)

NEWS AROUND THE CONGREGATION



November

- 5 Joe Garnett
- 9 David Leh
- 14 Linda Noecker
- 16 Roxanne Leh
- 30 Karen Kent

December

- 2 Aidan Leh
- 13 Kaylee MacNeill
- 14 Joyce Sherman
- 15 Catherine Blank
- 17 Linda Whittington
- 19 Ciera King

November

- 11 David & Roxanne Leh

December

- 27 Paul & Catherine Blank (#73)

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
- ♦ Linda Noecker - job search
- ♦ Joe & Laura Banasiak - health concerns and that they'll come to know and accept Christ (Jo Ann Quaglia)
- ♦ Stan Miller
- ♦ 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 Bonita Swanson (mother of Bonita Black) and Dorothy Ewing (mother of Roxanne Leh). As they went home to be with the Lord in October.

TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH October 15

(any questions, see Ann Edwards)

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income	\$4,383.45	\$91,867.52
Expense	\$3,492.52	\$91,443.56