

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

Web address: www.newcovbc.org

September & October 2008

Doris Weigner, Editor

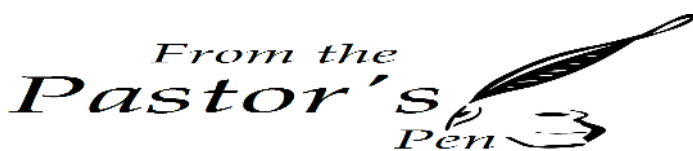
COVENANT CONNECTIONS

The September/October issue of *Covenant Connections* is sponsored Edwardine Baker in loving memory of her son, Harry W Baker.

FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE



The members of the search committee (Linda Whittington, Jo Ann Quaglia and Rich MacNeill) are please to announce that Rev. Jim Sutton has accepted the call to be New Covenant's new pastor. Pastor Jim will begin working at New Covenant on September 2. Please make Pastor Jim and his wife, Tracy, feel welcome.



And so we begin our journey together. Of course it is a journey you have already started, I am joining a trip already in progress, which means I will have to catch up in areas like names, personalities, family connections, and finding my way around town. And you will have to 'figure me out,' with my sometimes strange sense of humor, or the number of times I will quote from a book, song, movie or TV show to make a point. It will be both an exciting and an anxious time for all of us. Some who analyze churches call this our 'honeymoon' when much like after marriage everything is wonderful and there are no problems. That period of time could last for a week or a few years, as we discover our weaknesses and strengths, likes and dislikes, ability to communicate with each other and do all of this while never losing our focus on serving Jesus, trusting in

His grace and mercy to carry us. I have no gifts that allow me to look into the future, except to say with all confidence that God is already there, that our journey may have some bumps, but our destination is secure in Jesus. As we begin I ask just a few things that we will always speak the truth in love, that we will pray for each other every day, and that through everything we will keep our eyes on Jesus.

Blessings,
Pastor Jim

Sermon Series for September & October

The Four F's of a Growing Church:

September 7	<i>Family</i> John 13:35
September 14	<i>Failure</i> John 13:35
September 21	<i>Forgiveness</i> John 13:35
September 28	<i>Future</i> John 13:35

Questions from Jesus

October 5	<u>Position: What Are You Looking For?</u> John 1:35-39
October 12	<u>Power: What Do You Believe?</u> John 11:26
October 19	<u>Purpose: Do You Understand?</u> John 13:12
October 26	<u>People: Do You Love Me?</u> John 21:15-17

FROM THE MODERATOR

We, at NCBC, have been very privileged over the last year and a half to have had Pastor Ron as our spiritual leader. He and his wife, Judy, have brought effective leadership and meaningful

spiritual guidance to our congregation. But more than that, they have shown us what loving and caring Christian people should be like.

Along with very powerful sermons, Pastor Ron has been faithful (on a weekly basis) in visiting and taking communion to our shut-ins, perhaps more so than anyone since we have been in existence as a church. He also provided leadership and direction for a group of church leaders as we looked at our future. Along with the above, he provided, through his teaching ability, the revitalization of our adult Sunday School program and a new members' class and he did all this from more than an hour away. We, at New Covenant, have been blessed by his presence and all that he has brought to us.

As we begin the next part of our journey, we need to thank God for each person He has brought to us. We need to remember lessons learned and guidance given. We were blessed by Pastor Ron and all that he brought to us. We wish him well in his next adventure.

WORSHIP MINISTRY AREA

Sheryl Johnson has started her position as our new Worship Leader/Coordinator. We are happy to have her. I would like to invite anyone who would like to sing on the worship team to come out to our practice on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. We need several more people to sing, so we can make two teams. You would only have to sing every other Sunday with two teams. Hope to see you there.

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.

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. They sang many years ago at New Covenant, and we are glad we can get them back.

Thanks for all your support throughout the year. If you have any concerns or suggestions for the worship ministry, please let me know. We will be scheduling a meeting within the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in joining this ministry, we would like to have you attend.

Sherri Garnett, Worship Ministry Coordinator

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY AREA

Game Night at NCBC is scheduled for October 11th at 7 PM. It is open to all members, friends and community. Come join us for fun and snacks.

Movie Night at NCBC is November 15th at 7 PM. You won't want to miss the movie we have all been waiting for: Veggie Tales *The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything*. Tell the community. Bring your family, invite your friends. We'll provide the popcorn.

Bible Champs is back! It will start up again on September 7 and we're better than ever. Our children's ministry is growing and we have an exciting new curriculum planned. We have a pre-teen class in the works for this fall, and a parent/child worship room for those with young children staying the service. The toddler class will continue to meet downstairs during worship hour for those children age 2-4.

Please consider if your talents and gifts fit these needs: we need nursery care, teachers for the worship hour for all classes and babysitters for the Sunday School hour for the toddler class. We need substitutes to cover absences, sometimes at the last minute. If you have an interest, please see Molly Dixon.



Parent/Child Worship room located upstairs and is available for parents to take children and still participate in the service without distracting from the worship of others. It includes some chairs, small couch, some children's books, toys and a bathroom. If you are interested in touring this facility, please see Molly Dixon.

Neighborhood Jubilee Wrap-Up: Thank you to all the many volunteers that donated their time, money, energy, ideas and hard work for the Neighborhood Jubilee. Everyone had a great time: from the games and prizes to the yummy food and desserts to the music performances to the clowns and crafts and puppet show. There were many, many ways to enjoy the day with our church, friends and the community. And there were so many people that worked behind-the-scenes on brochures, tents, signs, advertising, clean-up crews and a hundred other things. We had representatives from

CHIPS child fingerprinting, Keystone Miller Blood Mobile, Greg Levensgood, a local financial, our very own Rich MacNeill playing bagpipes, The Rockdale Boys and a local musician and song writer, Fran Weickowski, provided music during the day.

We met new families each evening leading up to the Jubilee. On Wednesday, Bill Scott demonstrated how to be a puppeteer, gave us a sample performance and then the whole crowd gathered around tables to create their own puppets. On Thursday, we enjoyed a slide presentation of the many great works that are happening around the world and enjoyed a visit from our local missionary puppy, Woofi. Friday was a relaxing time with the Veggie Tale movie, *King George and his Ducky*. Bob and Larry joined us out along the street inviting people in.

Thank you to EVERYONE for making this a success. (Editor's note: A BIG thank you to Molly Dixon for all she did to make this event a success!)

PS: If you were not here when Woofi was, and would like to buy a puppy, we have them available for \$20. For each Woofi that is sold, the *Because We Care* ministry will give NCBC a second Woofi that we will send to the mission field. See Doris Weigner if you'd like to buy a Woofi.

Molly Dixon, Discipleship Coordinator

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY AREA

On September 13, 2008 we will be having our Yard Sale. It will begin at 8 A.M. You may sign up for a table or a space for \$10 each. The church will be having a table, so if you have a few things to get rid of, and you do not want a table or space, you may donate them to the church table.



We will be having a bake sale that same day. There is a sign up sheet for a table or space and for baked goods. Please feel free to join in as much as you possibly can with all that is going on that day. We will be needing help to get tables out and set up beginning at 6:30 AM Saturday morning. See Naomi if you can help with the tables.

The first Sunday in October will be a pizza luncheon. There will be a sign up sheet for the pizza.

Be sure to check the table in the rear of the sanctuary each Sunday. There are many things going on at New Covenant.

Naomi Geiger, Fellowship Coordinator

SERVICE MINISTRY AREA

We are still accepting donations toward the cost of the roof. We've received \$7,084.88 of the \$9,850 needed (\$2,765.12)

A couple more people have signed up to work on the Service Ministry Team; we can still use a lot more. Thank you to the new volunteers. The "Things To Do" list is still on the back table, or you can talk to me about what you can help with at anytime.

I will also need some help with the renovations downstairs in Fellowship Hall. This will happen in September or October. A wall will be removed to make an opening between two of the smaller rooms and bi-fold doors added. 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. There will be several things to help with, such as demolition, clean up, removal, and construction. Please see me as soon as possible so I can schedule a day and time.

There will be an Annual Fall Clean Up scheduled for some time in Nov.

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

Joe Garnett, Service Coordinator

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Take time sometime this month to thank Pastor Jim for serving God here at New Covenant.

CRAFT BAZAAR



Our Craft Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 1 from 9AM - 2 PM

Those wishing to make crafts at home, you are encouraged to continue to do so. The first Wednesday in October (10/1), we will be

meeting at the church at 7 P.M. to start pricing everything and to see what all we have.

Also, anyone wishing to purchase a space for their own crafts may do so by calling the church (610 323-0385) or Naomi (610 754-0624). The cost of a table will be \$10.

MYSTERY

Rich MacNeill left his cell phone on a chair in the sanctuary on the day of our picnic (8/3). Later in the week he got a call that his phone was found (minus its cover) at Manderach Park in Limerick. If anyone knows where the cover for the phone is, he'd appreciate having it back. Just put it in his mailbox.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

- ✚ We received a mailing from the Pottstown YWCA Adult Literacy Center. On September 6 from 9A - 4 P they will be holding a training session for new tutors. Cost for the training is \$12 which includes a light breakfast and lunch. If you'd like to volunteer your time to help another adult with reading, writing, math and computer skills, please contact the YWCA Adult Literacy Center (1830 E. High Street) at 610 326-7323.
- ✚ The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities relies on the support of area churches. They provide food, clothing, emergency services and counseling for people in the community. In the past we have supported them with food for their Christmas baskets through our Harvest Home food collection. They have a monthly Delegate Assembly meeting at 12:15 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month. They would like to have one or two delegates from each church attend this meeting. If you would be interested in volunteering in this way, please see Doris Weigner.
- ✚ Angel Food Ministries provides families with approximately \$65 worth of quality, nutritious food purchased from the nation's top food suppliers for \$30. Each month Angel Ministries offers "specialty boxes" of steak, chicken, pork, etc. plus fresh, frozen and packaged food. There is no limit for the number of boxes of food you may purchase. There are no applications or qualifications necessary to purchase. There is a distribution site at Calvary Christian Center, 426 Laurelwood Road, Pottstown, PA 19465 (610

323-0480) and Wesleyan Christian Church, Hilltop & Buchert Roads, Pottstown, PA 19464 (610-327-8112). For more information, see their website: www.angelfoodministries.com.

THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

To Our Church Family:

Jim and I would like to express our heartfelt "thank you" for your prayers, visits, phone calls and remembrances during our time of recovery. To the "Chef Angels," the meals made the days something to look forward to and were the highlight of the days that they arrived! We are progressing very nicely, but will be taking our time and care before we run with everyone else.

From thankful us to thoughtful you—God Bless,

Jim & Joyce

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your cards, visits and kind words as I recovered from my broken ankle. Your support and prayers are truly a blessing. Thank you also for all the help you provided to keep up my home. (Frank Geiger & Harry Weigner did some repairs for Catherine & Paul.) Please feel welcome to drop me a line or a visit anytime. Again, all my heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Truly,
Catherine (& Paul) Blank

Dear Ones:

Thank you so much for the love offering. It is so precious to see how the Lord works in the hearts of his people. May the Lord richly bless your ministry. Please keep our ministry (Because We Care) in prayer for the Holy Spirit's directions.

In His Grace,
Rich, Sue & Woofi, too

2008 AMERICAN BAPTIST WORLD MISSION OFFERING

September 2008

Dear New Covenant Church Family,

You and I follow Jesus because God used someone to share the Good News with us. We continue and grow as followers of Jesus because God continues to use others to celebrate with us in victory, encourage us in defeat, and call us forward in faith.

We can help to make the same things happen in the lives of people around the world. That's why I am writing to ask you to pray and to give to the **2008 World Mission Offering**.

When our congregation gives to the **World Mission Offering**, we help to support more than 2,500 short-term and long-term missionaries annually, bringing U.S. and Puerto Rico churches together with partners in 76 countries in cutting-edge ministries that tell the Good News of Jesus Christ while meeting human needs.

Our giving to the **World Mission Offering** helps people around the world:

- come to Christ,
- grow in Christ, and
- change their world with Christ.

This year International Ministries invites us to look at global mission in these terms:

**Be Surprised by God's People:
Receive. Give. Be transformed!**

**“They were all amazed and glorified God, saying,
‘We have never seen anything like this!’” Mark 2:12**

This offering is one of the major means by which American Baptist International Ministries raises funds to support our mission effort outside the United States and Puerto Rico. Therefore, I urge us to faithfully pray and give generously towards our congregational offering goal of **\$500.00**. This goal will be a challenge for us, but by God's grace, it is doable. The **World Mission Offering** will be ingathered during the month of **October 2008**.

We have received from the Lord. Let us also **give, be surprised by what God can do, and be transformed by God's grace!**

In Christ,

Blake E. Edwards

Blake E. Edwards, Coordinator
Missions/Evangelism Team

NEWS

AROUND THE CONGREGATION



Happy Anniversary!

September

- 2 Alyssa Greiss
- 14 Pam Krepps
- 2 Wanda Ruppert
- 4 Helen Kurtz
- 5 Naomi Geiger
- 23 Angel Kulikowski

October

- 2 Brandon Wieand
- 8 Doris Weigner
- 10 Lois Beideman
- 13 Angela Leh
- 16 Jason Leh
- 19 Kathy Buckner
- 30 Donna Fulmer

September

- 2 Richard & Bonita Black
- 13 Bill & Kathy Buckner

October

- 6 Jim & Joyce Sherman
- 14 Jason & Angela Leh

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
- ◆ 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)
- ◆ Edwardine Baker
- ◆ 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

TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH AUGUST 15

(any questions, see Ann Edwards)

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
Income	\$4,342.01	\$65,617.84	
Expense	\$3,273.17	\$66,317.03	(\$1,068.84)
Roof	Income \$7,084.88	Expenses \$ 9,850.00	(\$2,765.12)