

# 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)

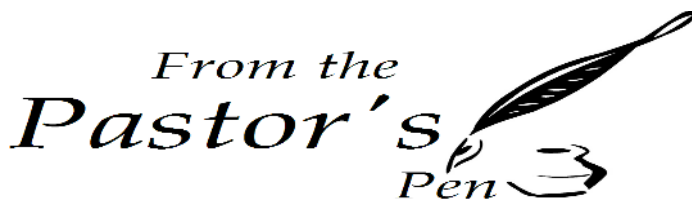
Web address: [www.newcovbc.org](http://www.newcovbc.org)

*March & April 2009*

*Angela Leh, Editor*

### COVENANT CONNECTIONS

Tracy Sutton sponsored the March/April issue of *Covenant Connections* in memory of her mother-in-law Jeanne Sutton (she loved Easter!)



Everything changes and at least some of the time we don't particularly like that fact. This is especially true when it feels like our lives are moving from one bad situation to another and we have little or no control over what is taking place. Everything from the nuisance matters like weather that isn't fitting into our plans; to the fear inducing issues of health concerns or world wide conflict add together to create a life filled with doubt and fear. Fearful living has become the normal operating procedure for many of us. And while we may not care to admit it, even Jesus' words to the disciples 'do not let your hearts be troubled' may add to our concerns because we are troubled and we wonder if our doubt or lack of faith is a major part of our confused situation in life and the fear grows.

Many of us have thought if not said, 'if I only knew what was next I could get rid of my fears,' or 'if I just had a handle on tomorrow I could deal with today a lot better than I am.' The future or more appropriately, the desire to know the future, has been a pursuit of humanity in every culture and every age.

What is next, what does the future hold for me? How that is determined or sought, may conjure up an image of some mysterious person in a dark room peering into a crystal ball or someone looking at the remains of tea leaves at the bottom of a cup to catch a glimpse of what the future holds. A more accurate picture of that today is that of a meteorologist poring over weather data and satellite images in order to predict the next week's weather, or a financial advisor studying every trend and fluctuation in the market over the past several years combined with the possibility of several large companies merging, all in an effort to determine what might be next and how and where they should advise their clients to invest.

What is next, what is the future for me? Most of us aren't trying to control the weather or manage our huge stock portfolios, we are just trying to remain true to the Lord and take care of ours and our family's needs. Martin Luther once wrote 'never be afraid to trust an unknown future to an all-knowing God.' He did not write that casually or without emotions. He had wrestled with understanding God's will for years and through prayer and filling himself with scripture came to the point of awareness of God's grace and acceptance of God's leading.

What is the future? Several years ago when studying the various interpretations of the book of Revelation and how it would be played out in the world, I came upon a story by one of the great scholars of the New Testament, who had a strong focus on this final book of scripture. He related that once while taking graduate studies he happened to see an elderly man on a bench reading revelation. Feeling pretty full of himself at that time he approached

the gentleman and asked- “do you understand what you are reading?” The old fellow looked up and smiled and said “yes I do.” At this the scholar smirked as he continued his questions peppering the man with questions concerning the vast number of interpretations and explanations offered through the centuries, and smugly asked- ‘so what does it mean to you?’ The old man smiled, closed his Bible and with a quiet confidence responded, “Jesus Wins.” The writer said he still had a fascination with this book and delving into all the images and times, but behind and beneath and around all of his study echoed those words ‘Jesus wins.’ As someone much wiser than I noted, I affirm, I don’t know what tomorrow holds, but I know who holds tomorrow, his name is Jesus, my Lord, my God, my Savior.

*Pastor Jim*

---



---

**Sermon Series for March and April**

March 1	<b><u>Reflecting with Substance</u></b> Matthew 5:13-16, John 12:35,36
March 8	<b><u>Doing right (quietly)</u></b> Matthew 6:1-18
March 15	<b><u>Focusing on what matters</u></b> Matthew 6:22-34, Luke 11:34-36
March 22	<b><u>Keeping the order straight</u></b> Mark 9:33-37, Mark 10:13-16
March 29	<b><u>Sharing without shoving the News</u></b> Matthew 28:16-20
April 5 Palm Sunday	<b><u>Celebrating and missing the point</u></b> Mark 11:1-11
April 12 Easter Sunday	<b><u>The First To Know</u></b> John 20:1-18
April 19	<b><u>Honest doubt</u></b> John 20:19-31
April 26	<b><u>Recovering sight and hope</u></b> Luke 24:13-32

**DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY AREA**

A Sunday School class is being held weekly on Sunday morning at 9:30. Please come out and join our in-depth study of the book of Genesis with Pastor Jim. The Pastor's understanding of cultural history and language adds a new dimension to the scriptures. Come out and join us for an interactive discussion and Bible study. There is also a class led by Mr and Mrs Geiger for the 6Th through 9Th grade that is studying bible heroes vs zeros and how it applies to the life of our teens in today's world.

**We need your help.**

There is a sign-up sheet for childcare during the Worship Service. The upstairs worship room is being used to care for the infants and toddlers. This room is available for any 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. Please see Molly Dixon if you can serve in this area.

Jubilee 2009 is about to get started. We had a great time last year and we are looking forward to hearing your creative ideas. Please see Molly Dixon if you can participate on the committee or if you are interested in coordinating the event this year . The kick-off meeting will be scheduled for Saturday March 21st at 10:00 am so there will be plenty of time and volunteers to to have a successfull program this year. If we all take a little

piece each month, it will be done in no time.

Molly Dixon



## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY AREA

The Fellowship Ministry team is working hard and is very excited about the plans for the rest of 2009!

In January we had a great time of fellowship with hoagies after church. We also had a cake to say goodbye to our friends Joe and Sherry Garnett. We wish them well in their new life together in Michigan.

On March 1 we will have a pot luck luncheon after church. We will have a sign up sheet in the back. Please join us for this fellowship and delicious food!

**Easter Breakfast**  Easter comes on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be having an Easter breakfast at 9:00 AM. There will be a sign-up sheet for egg casseroles, fruit and Danish, etc.

Edwardine Baker & Linda Whittington

## SERVICE MINISTRY AREA

**April 18 at 8:30 AM**  
**(or whenever you can get there)**  
**Coffee & donuts will be served**  
**Raindate: May 2**

**There are inside and outside jobs that need to be done—including cleaning and gardening.**

**There is a job for everyone.**

**We need your help!**  
**Can you come out and serve God in this way at NCBC?**



**Daylight Savings Time begins March 8<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Letters Received**

**Dear New Covenant Members,**

**Thank you for the generous cookies and candy we received at Christmas time.**

**Thank you ,**

**Paul and Catherine Blank**

A little Humor:

A man was driving down the street in a lather because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking space. Looking up to heaven, he said, "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking space, I promise to go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up swearing."

Miraculously, a spot opened right in front of the building.

The man looked up and said, "Never mind. I found one."

... this isn't just a joke people really do live their lives this way!

# AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING



“For the love of Christ urges us on...: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

March 2009

Dear New Covenant Baptist Church Family,

Affluent and influential as it is, the United States remains a mission field, as challenging and in need as almost any field across the globe. Indeed, on our very doorsteps lie just the sort of people whom Christ comforted, healed, and empowered. If we assume the responsibility to be ambassadors for Christ, we will eagerly move out into our towns, cities, and neighborhoods providing sharing and caring in His name.

To understand our nation’s spiritual and physical needs means to identify and positively address realities that hinder wholeness from occurring to millions of our people of all ages and gender. To that end, American Baptist Churches’ National Ministries and Regions have provided resources that have changed countless lives through Christ-centered caring in the United States and Puerto Rico.

The following are some means by which mission has occurred on our doorstep:

- Through Volunteers in Missions, the love of Christ has urged us to give of our time, talents, resources, and compassion.
- Through refugee resettlement ministries, the love of Christ has urged us on to welcome the “stranger in the land.”
- Through evangelism ministries, the love of Christ has urged us to share from His Word the incomparable Good News of God’s astounding love.
- Through chaplaincy and pastoral counseling ministries, the love of Christ has urged us to offer comfort, counsel, and need-focused care for others.
- Through the Children in Poverty initiative, the love of Christ has urged us to reach out and embrace our young ones just as He did with compassion and care.
- Through youth ministries, the love of Christ has urged us to nurture and support our youth who are our present and future witnesses for generations to come.

These types of ministries are made possible by our generous support of the **2009 America for Christ Offering**. During the month of March, our congregation will ingather this offering with a congregational goal of \$150.00. Join me and support the offering with a joyful heart.

In Christ,

Dave Leh

Dave Leh, Coordinator Missions/Evangelism Team

# NEWS AROUND THE CONGREGATION



### March

3 Kayleigh Sharpe  
15 Joan Keim  
19 Jo Ann Quaglia  
21 Irene Quaglia  
26 Joan Achenbach  
26 Molly Dixon  
31 Bonita Black

### April

4 Steve Buckner  
12 Lance Parson  
14 Frank Geiger  
21 Jim Sherman  
24 Bill Buckner  
27 Amanda Ruppert  
29 Breckin Leh



### March

21 Julio & Jo Ann Quaglia

Please Pray For: **Our shut-ins: Joan Achenbach, Catherine Blank, Irene Quaglia, Jim & Joyce Sherman, & Bill Buckner**

**NCBC** – that we know God’s will for us

**Those serving in the armed forces**

**John Collins** friends of the Sutton’s)

**Dennis Keim Jr.** His safety working at Graterford Prison

**Tracy Williams** – personal issues

**Soltis family** (friends of Ruppert’s)

**For the safety of overseas missionaries** —especially Dale, Flo, Caleb & Joel Johnson

**Leaders at ABC-USA**

**President Obama, his family, and his advisors**

### Health Concerns

**Mark Stranick** (Doris Weigner’s cousin)

**Gene Rinehimer** (friend of the Weigner’s)

**Amy Rozinski** (friend of Joan Keim)

**Laura Irwin** (friend of Joan Keim)

**Dean Keim** (Joan’s son)

**Joe & Laura Banasiak** (Jo Ann Quaglia)

*Elizabeth Sutton*

*George Brown - cancer (former member of NCBC)*

### TREASURER’S REPORT THROUGH January 2009

Income	\$4,385.25
Expense	\$7,031.57
Budget Requirements/month	\$7,399.00
Budget Requirements/week	\$1,707.46