

COVENANT CONNECTIONS

News of New Covenant Baptist Church

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Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

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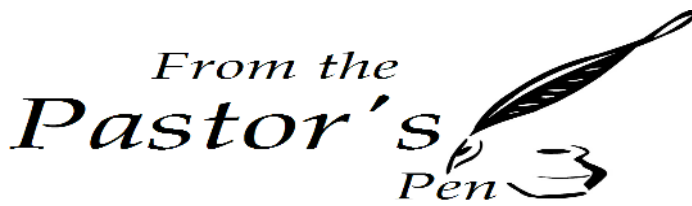
Web address: www.newcovbc.org

May & June 2009

Angela Leh, Editor

COVENANT CONNECTIONS

The May/June issue of *Covenant Connections* is sponsored by **Edwardine Baker** in memory of Edwardine Shoemaker's Birthday.



Our church is based on Biblical principles in its vision, purpose and organization; however in saying that I must add that the New Testament does not include a 'how to' manual on setting up or 'doing' church correctly. In each town, city or region churches began based on very basic concerns and little or no hierarchy. There were no comments on buildings as most churches were 'house churches' a group of similarly minded believers who met in each other's homes. Leadership came from within the community and while most of the churches were begun by one of the apostles, most notably Paul, they did not remain at the church but developed leaders in all areas of Christian work.

Here at New Covenant we are organized around the five basic functions of the church of the 1st century and the 21st century, how these are implemented has changed through the millennia, but their place in the vision of the church of Jesus Christ remains the same. These areas of ministry are to be held in a healthy tension with each other, none being more important than another. Worship, evangelism,

discipleship, service and fellowship continue to define the way the church works no matter where in the world that church exists.

Right now we are in of someone to take on the leadership of service, but before you stop reading perhaps thinking this is a plea or a guilt trip, let me assure you it is neither. The truth is I am not looking for someone to fill a position, that is not scriptural or practical, and I believe the New Testament church is to be both. The church of Jesus is one comprised of believers who all serve God in some capacity, using specific gifts from the Holy Spirit. This is no magical notion; it is the clear teachings of the Bible. At that point when each one of us accepted Jesus as our Savior, we were forgiven and accepted and given spiritual gifts to be used in our service. The beauty of this is that no gift is more important than another- all serve to lift the others so that someone with a gift of hospitality who greets folks at the door is as important as those singing, teaching, preaching and praying. Those who make meals or visit shut-ins are as important as those witnessing, paying bills, or leading worship. Our recent clean up day brought this home to me again as we met with no titles or power issues, just a group of believers who mulched, picked up sticks and debris, painted, repaired broken things and washed windows. There are no small tasks in the Kingdom of God.

My request or challenge for each one of us is to pray. Pray for clarity and pray for strength to answer God's call on our lives.

We serve here, but our mission is the world. When God gifts us, God calls us to use those gifts, and when God calls us, God also empowers us to do eternal things and supports us in our shared efforts. If you have felt some urgings of the Spirit and aren't quite sure what or where to serve, give me a call, send me an email, meet with me after worship, I would love to listen to your story and help you discover what God has already put on your heart. No arm twisting, no guilt or pressure just sharing the love Jesus is so eager for all of us to experience together.

Love Jim

Sermon Series for May and June

May 3	<i>In These Times</i> Acts 1:14-39
May 10 (Mothers' Day)	<i>Motherly Multitasking</i> Proverbs 31:10-31
May 17	<i>Living, Dying, & Living</i> Romans 8:1-11
May 24	<i>Active Waiting</i> Romans 8:12-27
May 31	<i>The Ultimate Guarantee</i> Romans 8:28-39
June 7	<i>Not What it Looks Like</i> 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
June 14	<i>Is Grace Enough?</i> 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
June 21 (Fathers's Day)	<i>Read carefully, Live Joyfully</i> Ephesians 5:21-6:4
June 28	<i>Jesus Straight Ahead</i> Philippians 3:12-14

WORSHIP MINISTRY AREA

We are looking for singers for the worship team on Sunday mornings. Please get in touch with Sheryl Johnson or Angela Leh if you are interested, or request an updated music schedule, and just show

up for a practice. We 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 blessing us with your solos. Also to all the Easter Worship Team who worked hard at extra practices in preparation for our Easter Service.

We also need more people signed up for Lay Leaders, Greeters, Offering, ect. Please see all the sign up sheets on the back table of the sanctuary. If you have questions on what any of the positions involves please see Angela Leh.

The Easter flowers this year added a special touch with the tulips, they were gorgeous! And the different colors really made is special!

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,
Angela Leh

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY AREA

Adult Sunday School Our class meets 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.

Children's Ministry

Bible Champs Our children's ministry for 1st through 5th grade now has their own room. We invite you to drop in and see where our young disciples are learning and growing. You can find us downstairs in the last classroom on the right. Over the next few weeks, we will be finishing our study of the Old Testament. Bible Champs will be taking a break for the summer and joining the weekly service to worship with our families. We encourage the kids to participate and experience the service right alongside of the adults who are our

example of the disciples that we will become someday. And as adults, we look forward to experiencing the energy, joy and simplicity that comes naturally to our youth.

Bible Champs will resume in the fall and begin with study of the New Testament.

Toddlers and Pre-School Class Childcare will still be provided for families of young children. This class combines the children's play activities with values and lessons that tell classic Bible stories. The newly expanded room is always busy and filled with energy and excitement. It is great to see how the children look forward to their time at church as they rush to get to their class.

Parent/Child Worship room There is a room with a separate bathroom upstairs and available for parents to take children and still participate in the service without distracting from the worship of others. It was recently upgraded to include a playpen, changing table and rocking chair in addition to the books and toys. The speaker system is in place so that you can hear the service and participate, while still caring for your children.

A Nursery Childcare Sign-up sheet is located in the back of the church for families to take turns in caring for their little ones. Please see Molly Dixon if you have questions.

Pre-teen Class is meeting on Sundays at 9:30 downstairs in the last classroom on the left. This class is led by Mr. and Mrs. Geiger for the 6Th through 9Th grade and currently studying bible heroes vs. zeros and how it applies to the life of our teens in today's world.

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 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.

Neighborhood Jubilee.

Stay tuned for more information. New Covenant Baptist Church is planning another exciting event for later this year. It's

still in the planning stages, but so far we have in mind a Saturday evening event for families and community followed by our annual church picnic with the church service to be held on the front lawn under the shady trees. We are planning some games and activities that will be a big hit for everyone.

Phones and Ink Cartridges Did you know we collect and recycle Cell Phones & Consumer Electronics ?

We can earn money for every Cell Phone, Ink Jet Cartridge, Laptop, iPod & Digital Cameras that we collect and send in. Even if it is damaged or Non-Listed! The shipping is free and the money goes directly into the Fellowship fund. So add this to your spring cleaning list and drop off your electronics to help the environment and NCBC. Note: they do NOT accept desktops, towers, monitors or accessories at this time.

HAVE YOU A HUGGED A TEACHER TODAY? Be sure to extend your thanks to the talented and dedicated teachers and childcare providers. They do a tremendous job of serving God and supporting New Covenant Baptist Church by sharing God's love with our children.

Molly Dixon, Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY AREA

The Fellowship Committee wants to invite everyone to a PASTA lunch on Sunday, May 3rd following the church service. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary - bring your favorite Pasta dish, salad or dessert and join us for a time of fellowship. Have lunch with us and make a new friend or just visit with an old one.

On June 7th we will be having a Pizza and Salad lunch. There will also be a sign up sheet to order pizza by the slice and to bring a salad or dessert. Drinks will be provided.

Our last fellowship was our Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday. We had a great selection of breakfast foods and a good time of fellowship. There was a Easter Egg Hunt for the children following breakfast while the rest of us enjoyed

our second cup of coffee and then we all went upstairs for the morning worship service.

We do hope you'll join us next month.

Linda and Edwardine

SERVICE MINISTRY AREA

Spring Work Day went very well. We are so thankful for the turnout we had. We are glad our sign is now up at the opposite end of our property to show others we are here when they come from that direction. A special Thank you to Ben Sharpe for taking the extra time and getting the mulch for the flower beds.....wow they look great! And the fresh paint on the railings really makes a difference too!

Soon we are having the driveway re sealed so that should spruce that up also!

There are still more things to be done around the church if you are able to come by during the week or even on the weekends. Let Harry Weigner know and we can give you some things to mark off our list.

A special thank you to all of you who have been taking the time to come and clean the church. We really do appreciate it!

We are still looking for a service ministry coordinator. If you are interested please see Harry Weigner.

Bible Humor

* A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, " I know the what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know" what the bible means.

"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."

*There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the Postal Clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments" answered the lady

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* "Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world.

There are those who wake up in the morning and say "Good morning Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning!"

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* A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short on time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll loose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

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* There is a story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

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*While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign....."Energy efficient

vehicle: Runs on oats and grass.....Caution: Do not step in exhaust.”

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* A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, “Boys and girls, what do we know about God?” A hand shot up high in the air. “he is an artist!” said the kindergarten boy. “Really? How do you know?” the teacher asked. “You know – Our Father , who does art in Heaven.....”

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* 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. “Reverand,” 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 by business.”

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*People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

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*Sunday after 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 the morning’s Sunday School lesson was about. He said “Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming.”

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* Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk!

Treasurer’s Report

Through April 15, 2009

AFC Offering \$432.70

	April	YTD
Operating Income	\$4,118.77	\$23,128.97
Operating Expenses	\$4,555.08	\$25,348.92
Difference	- 436.31	-2775.93

April information includes payment in full of the property tax.

Income needed Per week to meet budgeted expenses is \$1,703.60

Ann Edwards

Evangelism Ministry Area

I would like to take this time to thank all of you for responding the way you did with the “America for Christ” Offering that we collected during the month of March. I set a goal of only \$150.00 for our congregation, because of the economic situation of the country and in our lives. I know that through the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ in us all we were able to surpass my goal and respond by giving the amount of \$430.72.

I know that God will use the offering from our congregation and other congregations across America and Puerto Rico to his glory, and build new churches, equip counselors at summer camps, and equip evangelists and missionaries to reach the lives of people in the United States and Puerto Rico that don’t know the LORDS message of salvation. And the love that HE has for us all.

My prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless each and every one of us in our every day lives and that we too will have a closer relationship with the LORD!

In Christ’s Love!

Dave Leh

Update on the Garnett's!!!!

Greetings from Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We miss everyone.

We are loving our retirement here. Joe said "It feels like I died and went to heaven, but I didn't really die yet." It is so beautiful and relaxing here. Less pressure and less stress. A great place to retire! We've had some really warm days, but the past was cooler, rain and snow. No accumulation. Several really warm days coming this weekend.

Joe has been fishing and turkey hunting so far. Or riding on the 4-wheeler. Lots of deer come into our back yard, a wonderful scene.

Sherri has been writing poetry, and hopes to get paints and canvas out this weekend to start on oil paintings again. Sherri joined the choir at the local church.

Jazz loves the country and would love to run on her own through the woods and fields. She did try one day, but we got her. She wants to be outside all day when it's warm out, but she still remains on a leash for now.

We hope someone is doing our jobs at church by now. If each one does one little thing for your church that would be wonderful – praise God for all who work for the glory of God.

Thanks for the calls and emails, we sure do appreciate them. You can reach us at: W3849 County Road 348, Stephenson, Mi. 49887 or email countrygal1@wildblue.net. Cell phones the same. New home no. 906-753-6020.

God Bless you and keep in touch.

So long for now from Yooper Country.

Love, Joe and Sherri Garnett

Free Cell Phone Program Info

Free Govt. Cell Phone Program Expanded to 10 States – 14 Soon!

The new government program for a FREE cell phone and FREE 42 minutes per month for low income people is now available in more states. This is a government sponsored program in partnership with Tracfone. It's like Food Stamps for the phone.

If you qualify for Food Stamps, you qualify, and if you are low income but don't get Food Stamps, you should still qualify. They do it by income. If you are on SS, you pretty much qualify.

You get a free cell phone. You get 42 free minutes per month. The minutes carry over to next month if you do not use them. Long Distance, Roaming, and Text messages are included. The program is for one year, then you have to reapply. They send you something when you are close to expiring.

The application is very easy to do. They want Social, home address, phone, how many people are in your household, and proof of your low income. All you need to send them is a copy of your SS letter and if you are on other low income programs, just copies of those award letters. That's it.

To check if the program is available in your state, go to:

<https://www.safelinkwireless.com> <<https://www.safelinkwireless.com/>>

You can also call: 1-800-977-3768

The program is now available in the following states:

- * Delaware
- * Florida
- * GA
- * MA
- * Michigan
- * New York
- * North Carolina
- * Tennessee
- * Virginia
- * Pennsylvania

And it is coming soon to:

- * Alabama
- * Connecticut
- * District of Columbia
- * New Hampshire
- TB

Kids bowl free!

<http://www.kidsbowlfree.com/index.php>

Select bowling centers and schools around the country are participating in the first ever "Kids Bowl Free" program. This program is designed by bowling centers to give back to the community and provide a safe, secure, and fun way for kids to spend time this summer.

Children whose age does not exceed a limit by a participating bowling center are eligible to register for 2 free games a day, all summer long, courtesy of the participating bowling centers along with the schools and organizations. There is no cost to participate and there are no strings attached.

Letters Received

Dear New Covenant Baptist Church,

Greetings from very, very hot Burkina Faso!

It's probably just a bad case of "selective amnesia", but we really don't remember it being this hot last year!

Regardless, we're surviving the heat (though Caleb has a really bad case of heat rash) and taking it a day at a time, praying for rain as we go along.

Our ministry partners, Matt and Julie Walsh, left on a 4-month furlough in early March. Our short-term missionary friends, Jason and Shannon Brink and our semi-retired missionary colleague Betty Eichhorst are all at the end of their terms and are flying back to Canada this week.

So, we'll be by ourselves for the next couple of months, except for Liz Barr, who agreed to come help cover some of the administrative load during the Walsh family's absence. Praise God for her willingness to serve!

We hope you all had a special Easter celebration this year. Dale was asked to preach the Easter sermon at our church this year, and we reflected on the fact that, despite how long ago the story of Christ's

resurrection took place, it is still a story that is in process...a story that is very relevant and should have much impact on our lives today.

After all, if the point of Christ's death on the cross was that the necessary debt for our sins was paid, then it's His resurrection that makes it possible for Him to offer us salvation (having conquered death) and for us to accept His gift (knowing that He's God and NOT just another good man).

So today the story is far from over...the plot thickens as each of us must make a choice whether to claim the promise of the resurrection or to try and find our own way. And one day the clock WILL run out and the story of the resurrection WILL end.

We hope and pray for a "happy ending" to this story for every single one of you.

We've just posted our first quarter 2009 newsletter on our website and we'd love for you to take a minute to catch up a little bit on our lives here in Burkina the last few months. Visit this link to see it!

<http://www.ergatai.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/jtl-14.pdf>.

God bless!

Dale, Florence, Caleb and Joel Johnson

Ways to help out the church.....

* Redner's has a "Save a Tape" program. You get a card from their Customer Service office and then use it each time you shop at Redner's. You must use the card in order for the church to get cash back. There is a box for these receipts on the table outside the library.

* We also collect used cell phones, and printer cartridges. There is a box for them under the table in the back of the

church. (see note in the Discipleship Area of this newsletter for even more info)

* We all search the internet weekly....well how about helping out our church at the same time. Go to www.goodsearch.com it is a search engine just like google or yahoo. You choose our church as the charity you want the \$ to go to. For every search you do they church receives \$.01,

it may not seem like a lot but if we all do this it can add up. For instance if 100 people do 2 searches a day that is \$730.00 a year! So let all of your friends and family know.

Children's Day – June 14th

C L R E D H B F U D D T T Y H A R
Q Y O N P V P K K Q O F M J H C X
R A N U R R H E R U T R U N M I A
Y D O J O S T P U Y X V F I C M L
I S H W C P I F S M E N T A L K G
P N Q Q L I A K L A N O I T O M E
R E B Z A R F H S I R E H C P B H
A R J Y M I E X E O S X T W E B A
Q D I G A T J W A V V P N P V S I
W L M R T U F J B E I X I R K P Y
J I R Z I A F N P D Q S L J M W G
U H I Q O L C O M M I T M E N T C
H C F G N O H C B I L O V E Q T H
Q S F S S O S E P A R E N T I A U
M S A S X H O H L A N O I T A N R
K K Q Y T C L A C I S Y H P B E C
B H L Q E S X C S L R Z S U P P H

affirm
cherish
childrens day
church
commitment

emotional
faith
honor
hope
june

love
mental
national
nurture
parent

physical
proclamation
school
spiritual



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Invitation to Give

May 2009

Dear New Covenant Congregation,

We're going on a treasure hunt!

We won't be digging holes around the church searching for buried gold, though. Instead we're searching for God's treasure.

Scripture provides the map. For God, we are treasure: "You are children of the Lord your God.....It is you the Lord has chosen....to be his people, his treasured possession" (Deuteronomy 14:1-2). Although those words were spoken long ago to people in another part of the world, Galatians 3:26 assures us that we are included, too: "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God though faith."

One of the gifts of being God's children is that sometimes we are called to be "treasure tenders" of God. We tend God's treasure here in our congregation with the love and care we show each other through special meals, visiting the sick and shut-in, teaching Christian discipleship, and praying for each other. We are also invited to tend God's treasures beyond our congregation by participating in One Great Hour of Sharing.

Life can be tough at times. Hurricanes, earthquakes, cyclones, and tsunamis destroy communities. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter the very foundations of life, shoving people out of their homes and transforming them into frightened refugees. Persistent hunger, drought, poverty, lack of education, and illness shrivel the life and dry the spirit, leaving individuals to crumble from the inside out.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we care for God's treasures. By sharing some of our earthly treasure – our money, our time, our energy – aid is sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help in the long term as they rebuild their lives. People receive education, health care, tools, seeds, and resources to improve their communities.

And the sharing is mutual. When we care for people, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life. Seeing what others live through, we are inspired to live courageously. Seeing that new life is possible, our hope rises. Working with others, we realize that God reaches out to all of us. Relying on God for the outcome, our faith increases.

First Timothy 6:18-19a exhorts us "to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up....the treasure of a good foundation for the future." Our treasure is doing God's will, loving God, and loving God's treasured people, so we all "may take hold of the life that really is life" (1 Timothy 6:19b). Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). May you find your treasure, and your heart, by sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Dave Leh, Coordinator
Missions/Evangelism Ministry Area

NEWS AROUND THE CONGREGATION



May

1 Tracy Williams
5 Ann Edwards
8 Bridget Parson
9 Rev. Jim Sutton
11 Blake Edwards
18 Jason Dixon

June

3 Chuck Kent
4 Sally Shaner
15 Justin Wieand
30 Harry Weigner



Happy Anniversary!

May

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

June

10 Rev. Jim & Tracy Sutton
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, Catherine Blank, Irene Quaglia, Sally Shaner, Bill Buckner, Joyce & Jim Sherman.
- Tracy Williams – personal issues
- Bill Buckner – health concerns
- 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 Obama and the other leaders of our country
- Dylan Cornell (grandson of Caryl Casey)
- John Collins (friends of the Sutton’s)
- Adam Hendricks & Kayla Rainer
- Dennis Keim Jr. (his safety working at Graterford Prison)
- Krista Hughes (that god may open her eyes & heart to her children and family)
- Amy Rozinski
- Dean Keim (Joan Keim’s son)
- Joe & Laura Banasiak
- Joyce & Jim Sherman (recovering from surgeries)
- George Brown (cancer, former member of NCBC)
- Emily Sutton
- Laicis Plaza-Alameda (student from Tracy Sutton’s school hit by a car)