

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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September & October 2010

Linda Noecker, Editor

COVENANT CONNECTIONS

The September/October issue of *Covenant Connections* is sponsored by Edwardine Baker in memory of Harry W. Baker.



For the past month in our Bible Study class (which meets at 9:30 on Sunday morning in the back room off the sanctuary and is open to everyone –just a little advertisement) we have been studying the concept, practice, assessment, and development of spiritual gifts.

If you have ever studied them or taken a spiritual gift inventory or assessment that concept is not anything new, however for many it is an idea that has been relegated to the ancient church, some particular churches today, or seen as a fad that some publishers manipulated to get church people to buy their materials. I must admit when I first heard the term in the mid 1980's it was completely foreign to me- and I was raised in a Biblically solid church!

Throughout the history of the church there have been numerous times when a certain aspect of scripture has been focused on to the point where it rather than God has become the focus of one's Christian life. I believe that is what happened with Spiritual Gifts- a few gifts mentioned in some of Paul's letters became elevated or isolated so that some felt what they had to offer was not good or holy enough. Romans, 1 Corinthians, Galatians, 1 Timothy, 1 Peter and 1 John all list, mention or explain the gifts given by God to believers in Jesus and how, where and why they are to be used. In every instance it is clear that God given gifts are to be used within the community of faith for the glory of God

and to help others. It is also clear that no gift is any more important in the Kingdom of God than another.

That is the starting point for me as we as a congregation look ahead to understanding where God wants us to be and doing what God wants us to do. Jesus leads according to our willingness to be lead, and teaches determined by our openness to learning. As a believer in Jesus Christ the Spirit has given you a gift or several. The class discovered some of our individual gifts and it was interesting to see how those gifts have been used as we work together.

My goal is that everyone who is a part of our gathering will learn what their gifts are- NOT so I can put you in a position of service, but that you understand that you are gifted by God and that as a result you have an opportunity to use that which God has given. In other words this is not a recruiting tool, but an enlightening experience that when shared will help us understand what God has already determined for us.

In the coming months we will be offering these assessments- this is not a test and there are no failures- and the results will become a major part of our visioning times held on the last Sunday of each month following worship. If you have already taken one of these and you know your gifts please let me know that as well. God will bless us as we as one body serve our Lord.

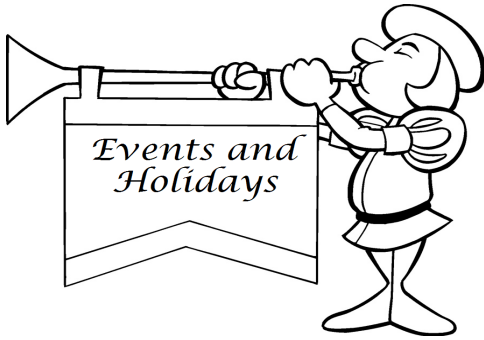
Sermon Series for September and October

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Sept. 5 | <i>Planting Forever Seeds</i>
<i>Acts 18</i> |
| Sept. 12 | <i>Don't Play with Fire</i>
(outdoor service)
<i>Acts 19:1-20</i> |
| Sept. 19 | <i>At the Intersection of
God and Life</i>
<i>Acts 19:21-41</i> |

- Sept. 26 **Testify!**
Acts 20
- Oct. 3 **The Lord's Will Be Done**
Acts 21:1-14
- Oct. 10 **Guest Speaker**
- Oct. 17 **Faith Is A Test**
Acts 21:15-36
- Oct. 24 **Sharing Your Story**
Acts 21:37-22:30
- Oct. 31 **The work Continues**
Acts 23



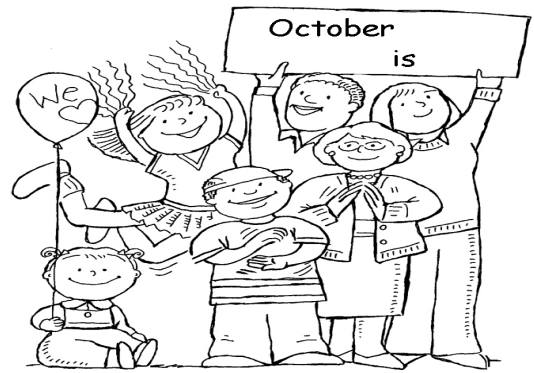
BRING THE FAMILY!



- Sept. 6 - Labor Day
- Sept. 12 - Outdoor Worship Service followed
by Church Picnic
Church Council Meeting
- Sept. 18 - Yard Sale 8:00 - 1:00
- Sept. 22 - First Day of Autumn
- Sept. 26 - Vision Meeting following worship *service*
- Oct. 5 - Boscov Shopping Day with *coupon*
- Oct. 10 - Second Sunday Fellowship
Council Meeting
- Oct. 11 - Columbus Day
- Oct. 31 - Halloween

The Church office is open Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Please note: Open Prayer Night has been moved from Tuesday to Monday
Monday Evenings Open Prayer Nights begin at 5:00.
Worship Team Practice Wednesday evenings begin at 7:30.



Pastor Appreciation Month
Let our Pastor know we love and appreciate him!!!

MODERATOR

Dear New Covenant Family,

I would like to thank all of you for your support and prayers since I have taken over as your Moderator. As I reflect on the last few months since I have taken over in my new role, I truly believe that God is leading us in the direction we should be moving in as a small church. Pastor Jim and Tracy have truly been a blessing to us and I feel he was called to pastor here at New Covenant.

I know I have done this before, but I must do it again. I would like to thank Mary and Paul Koster and all those responsible for the great week of Bible School! It was a great step in faith and a great way for God to get the glory.

Just jot down these events that are happening here at New Covenant in the next couple of months:

September 18 - Yard Sale – I you can, please donate items to be sold or rent a table or space for \$10.00. See Linda Whittington for more details!

Don't forget, starting in September we will continue our Vision Meetings. Please bring your ideas to the meetings or if you have an idea that could benefit the church, let me or Pastor Jim know so we can present it to the congregation. Please continue to lift New Covenant up in your daily prayers and ask God to continue to lead us in His will.

In Christ's guidance and love,
Dave Leh

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY AREA

On September 12 we will have our last outdoor service and picnic of the season. Pastor Jim will be preaching at the 10:30 service with lunch immediately following. Be sure to put this on your calendar, bring your favorite picnic dish and join us for a great time.

On September 18 the church is having its annual yard sale. Anyone with "stuff" to donate to the church's table should bring it to the church and leave it in the fellowship hall.

Spaces/tables are also available for anyone who wants to sell their own "stuff." There will be a \$10 charge and you should contact Linda N. at the church office.

There will also be a bake table (donations to Edwardine Baker), a food table (hot dogs and drinks) a craft table (donations to Naomi Geiger) and a Boscov's Coupon table (Linda Noecker) Set aside this date, **Saturday, September 18**, and plan on joining us for fun, food and shopping.

The October lunch will be a pot-luck on the second Sunday. Good food and fellowship after the morning worship service.

Linda and Edwardine

DISCIPLESHIP

Adult Sunday School Our class meets weekly on Sunday morning at 9:30. We are currently exploring our individual spiritual gifts and discovering how God uses our gifts together for His service. Please join us. Your wisdom, discernment, encouragement and faith are welcome... to name a few.

Children's Ministry

We need teachers! Please consider if your talents and gifts fit these needs: we need nursery care and teachers for the worship. We need substitutes to cover absences, sometimes at the last minute.

All lessons and materials are provided in an easy to follow format. 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.

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.

Please see Molly Dixon if you have questions.

VBS THANK YOU! To the many volunteers who made VBS a huge success this year, from registration, to snacks, cleanup and audio/video – Thanks! **A Special Thanks goes out to Mary and Paul Koster** who provided the vision, leadership and energy to reach out and share the salvation message to the children in our church and community. We had an energized week of Wet-N-Wild worship and praise with more than 30 children. **THANK YOU!**

On September 11th, the children will be back to celebrate their achievements and new friendships with a Back to School Bash and pizza party. Please pray for the ministry and welfare of our children as they start a new school year.

Plans are underway to host a Halloween Harvest Party and fall music concert. Stay Tuned for more information.

Home Touch Ministry

A weekly newsletter with a devotional page and an activity page with a mix of bible verses, puzzles and games is available at the back of the church each week. These are also being mailed to our shut-ins along with the weekly bulletin. Please see Molly Dixon with name and address information if you know someone who would enjoy receiving a complimentary weekly subscription from us.

MISSIONS/EVANGELISM

What do you know about American Baptist Missions? Do you know the reason the missionaries go to other countries? Many of us do not realize what our missionaries do or where they go or the dangers they face.

I would like for us to learn about our American Baptist Missions. I would like to get some missionaries to come and tell us about their work, just as the Johnson family did this past year.

We will be starting this with a Mission Sunday, October 10th. That is our regular fellowship Sunday, so we will have a speaker, Dean and Erma Hagarty. They will speak and after the service during our fellowship time, we can ask questions and talk with them.

Please be prepared to listen, take notes and ask questions?

Naomi Geiger
Mission/Evangelism Commission

Dear New Covenant Baptist Church,

It's been a long time since we've sent out a newsletter. We've been in the US on home assignment since December and have found ourselves busier than we had imagined! On the plus side, though, we've been able to see most of you face-to-face!

Our time in the US is drawing to a close. As I write this, we have exactly 2 weeks left. Our plane leaves from JFK on July 31st. We have lots to do before then, but aside from all the packing, cleaning, and last minute stuff, we're feeling pretty ready to go back. Praise the Lord that we've been able to get enough rest despite the busyness to be able to look forward to our return to Burkina. We do miss our friends over there and we miss having a more "settled" pace of life, even if it is very busy! We can't escape the call the Lord has placed on our hearts to be in Burkina, and our hearts aren't fully at peace until we're back doing what we're supposed to be doing!

We will miss you, though! It's always with a "torn" feeling that we have to say our goodbyes because we miss sharing in your every day lives. But this time around, we feel less grief and more thankfulness at having had this opportunity to reconnect. You have all welcomed us and loved us thoroughly while we've been in the US and we will take those memories with us, knowing that we have a great team behind us here in the US. What an encouragement! And we hope you will consider entering "our world" sometime...we would love to welcome you to our Burkina Faso home someday!

One last thought as we leave you...we always crave communication. It helps us stay linked to the reality of things happening back here in the US. We will work hard to send you regular updates, and hope that you will think of us from time to time and send us a note! Did you know that in addition to the quarterly newsletters like this one, we also send out monthly prayer letters? If you aren't getting those and are interested in receiving them, please let us know! We also changed our website. Last fall we began our own blog site. So if you've been checking our old website and not seeing any updates for a long time, try looking up the new blog at www.johnson.ergatai.com. And if you're not already connected to us through facebook, look us up! It's one more

tool to help us all stay in touch! With all these options, we hope there's no excuse for anyone to forget about us!;

Speaking of which, you can start by reading our latest newsletter. Follow the link below to go to our blog site and see the letter!

<http://www.johnson.ergatai.com/?p=623>

Love,

Dale, Florence, Caleb and Joel

SERVICE

Hello all.

We now have internet access from the laptop at the rear of the sanctuary. Jim and I ran cable and wire through the attic to a new outlet. This opens more options for the laptop

The track holding the bi-fold doors in the children's Sunday School rooms had become twisted and the doors wouldn't open and close properly. I straightened the track and applied labels to each side of the doors indicating where and how to open and close them.

We have one major issue looming and that is the sewer. There seems to be a crack somewhere in the line and rain water backs into it during heavy rains. The first step to repair the problem is to have a plumber fish a camera through the pipe to find out where the crack is. Hopefully we can do this soon. This could be an expensive repair but its something that must be done; we can't have waste lines backing up into the building.

There is some concrete work to be done and as soon as I'm up to it I'll get on it.

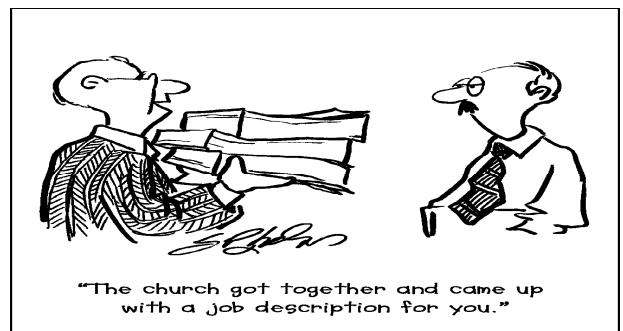
Fall will be here before you know it and that means we will be having our Fall clean up day.

Please don't leave it up to a few to do the work of many. If at all possible please plan on helping when we have it. Indoor and outdoor work will need to be done.

Thanks so much for the prayers during my down time. It is my hope that your needs are being met.

Love to all,

Mark



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Pastor,
 I want to thank you for your congregation's compassionate response to the people of Haiti. Six months after a deadly earthquake claimed tens of thousands of lives in Haiti, Church World Service remains at work assisting Haitians in their long, slow process of recovery. You and your congregation are a part of that on going story, thanks to the CWS Kits you helped to provide when we needed them most! To date, CWS has distributed CWS Hygiene, School and Baby Kits, blankets and other emergency supplies to more than 41,750 earthquake survivors. Thank you so much for your generous support!

Rev. John L. McCullough
 Executive Director and CEO

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

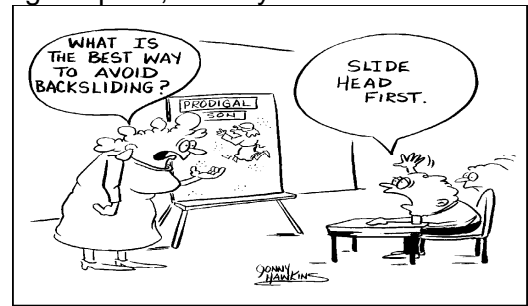
✚ The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities relies on the support of area churches. They provide food, clothing, emergency services and counseling for people in the community. In the past we have supported them with food for their Christmas baskets through our Harvest Home food collection. They 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 Linda Noecker.

✚ 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.

✚ Community Health and Dental Care at 11 Robinson St, Suite 100, Pottstown 19464 provides primary medical and dental care, which includes pediatric and family medical services and preventive and restorative dental care for individuals and families. There is a private and public insurance fee scale and a sliding scale fee for the uninsured and underinsured receiving their services. To make an appointment for family medical, pediatric or case management services call 610-326-9460. For dental services call 610-326-7405

LESSONS FROM A CHILD'S POINT OF VIEW

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'. The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?' The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.



A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.' The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.' Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honor' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'



BULLETIN BLOOPERS

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'
The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: 'Break Forth Into Joy.'

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, 'Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?'

Her mother replied, 'Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.'

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, 'Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?'

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture.

'Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.'

A small voice at the back of the room rang out, 'And there's the teacher, she's dead.'

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, 'Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.'

'Yes,' the class said.

'Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?'

A little fellow shouted, 'Cause your feet ain't empty.'

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of an elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The teacher had made a note, and posted on the apple tray:

'Take only ONE . God is watching.'

Moving farther along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'





Please Pray For:

Our Shut-Ins: Joan Achenbach, Catherine Blank, Bill Buckner, Irene Quaglia, Sally Shaner, and Jim and Joyce Sherman

- Those serving in the armed forces
- NCBC – that we know God’s will for us
- President Obama, his family and his advisors**
- Leaders at ABC-USA**
- For the safety of overseas missionaries** —especially
 - Dale, Flo, Caleb and Joel Johnson
- Dennis Keim** - LPN working at Graterford Prison
- The Ruppert family** – job concerns
- Naomi Geiger** – prayer support
- Sue & Mike** – (Jo Ann Quaglia) peace among neighbors
- Tim Buckner** - drug dependency
- Paul Koster** – job concerns

Health Concerns

- Elizabeth Sutton** – effective treatment for RA
- Sharon Stradling** (Pastor Sutton) – brain tumor
- Tim Schwartz** (Pastor Sutton) – brain tumor
- Joan Keim** – recovery from second broken ankle
- Betty Swanson** – recovery from kidney stones surgery
- Greta Wagner** – (Pastor Sutton) – health concerns
- Jim Bunker** – (Jo Ann Quaglia) – cancer
- Mark Maskulyak** – recovery from knee surgery
- Oliver Martin** (Sheryl Johnson) – non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
- Kathy Romano** (Pastor Sutton) – health concerns
- Pete Sobczak** (Theresa Sutton) – health concerns
- Kathy Schaeffer** (Theresa Sutton) – health concerns
- Judy Miller** (Doris Weigner) – congestive heart failure
- Jim Boatwright** – bladder cancer

TREASURER’S REPORT THROUGH AUGUST 15, 2010

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income	\$2,859.67	\$41,833.03
Expenses	3,745.29	49,337.58
Difference	-885.67 (Deficit)	-7,504.55 (Deficit)

The figures above in the Difference line are **actual deficit** numbers. This amount of money to pay staff salaries and ordinary operational costs has come from our limited reserves.

Received for the Gideons (VBS Offering) for Bibles: \$120.67

NEWS AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Collecting: Ink Cartridges, cell phones and digital cameras **Please RECYCLE!** 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. Note: they do NOT accept desktops, towers, monitors or accessories at this time. A box is provided at the back of church. Please see Molly Dixon with any questions.

Redner's Tapes: Please continue to submit Redner's Tapes, but make sure that you hand in your actual Redner's cash register receipt that says "Save-a Tape", and not the Summary for the Gas Perks. Redner's won't accept Gas Perks for credit. If you need to keep your cash register receipt for your records, ask the cashier for a duplicate. Thanks.

BOSCOV'S DISCOUNT COUPONS: We have Boscov discount coupons for sale at \$5.00 each for a 25% discount at any Boscov store, good on October 5 only. Buyers can win door prizes such as a flat screen TV, a diamond pendant, or a \$100.00 shopping spree. Our church keeps the \$5.00 and there is no expense to us!!! Let's sell as many coupons as we can. This is a great fund raiser!!! See Linda N. for coupons or if you have any questions.



Look Who's Having
a Birthday!

September

- 2 Wanda Ruppert
- 4 Helen Kurtz
- 5 Naomi Geiger
- 5 Brian Koster
- 12 Ricky Sutton
- 15 Noa Antrim

October

- 2 Brandon Wieand
- 2 Emily Sutton
- 8 Barbara Furlong
- 8 Doris Weigner
- 12 Mark Maskulyak
- 13 Angela Leh
- 16 Jason Leh
- 19 Kathy Buckner
- 30 Donna Fulmer



September

- 2 Paul & Mary Koster
- 2 Richard & Bonita Black
- 13 Bill & Kathy Buckner

October

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