

COVENANT CONNECTIONS

News of New Covenant Baptist Church

209 N. Prospect Street, Pottstown, PA 19464

Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

(610) 323-0385

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January & February 2011

Linda Noecker, Editor

COVENANT CONNECTIONS

The January/February issue of *Covenant Connections* is sponsored by The Rupperts, for God's love.



2011. It is always a strange thing to write down the new year like that, to see numbers that it seems like only a blink ago were miles away. I know it is a clear sign of my age when I begin to stroke my non existent beard and reminisce about things from long ago. I am amazed at how my words sound remarkably like those I swore to myself I would never be caught repeating, sharing sentiments about the quickness of time and the shortness of time at the same time. Why I remember.... I start to say that to my kids and wonder how many times I have said that already, and how many times they have had to endure the same stories. And then I wonder if they will in turn pass some of those stories on to their kids and grandkids.

2011. Do you remember all the way back to the end of 1999 when one of our greatest fears was that everything would shut down as the clock turned to midnight because all of our computers would crash? Banks, hospitals, and all kinds of businesses scurried around trying to correct stored information about us that was put into incomplete code which did not include the first two digits of the year so the fear was all the information would be lost. At least one TV movie was made, and a

few predictions of the rapture were put forth by well meaning but misguided folks laying out all the possible consequences of the calendar becoming 2000.

I know of several towns that had been planning first night celebrations but cancelled for fear of ... well, mostly the fear of the unknown. And then, if memory serves me, not much of anything happened, certainly nothing of the sort of devastation that some had predicted.

2011. At least that's what we and a lot of others who follow the Gregorian calendar will call this year. According to the Armenian calendar it is 1440, the Buddhist 2555, Hebrew 5771-5772, and Korean 4344. Of course God's way of determining time is a bit different – something like a day or a thousand years, so perhaps getting too caught up in the number isn't all that productive.

2011. Statistically minded people have let us know that during this year about 140 million babies will be born and 57 million people will die, apparently we are in the midst of a fairly consistent birth and death time period that will continue for the next several years. These folks also predict that sometime maybe by late 2011 the world population will reach 7 billion people. That seems like a lot of people unless you think if everyone of them gave our government 100 dollars we would still have a huge deficit.

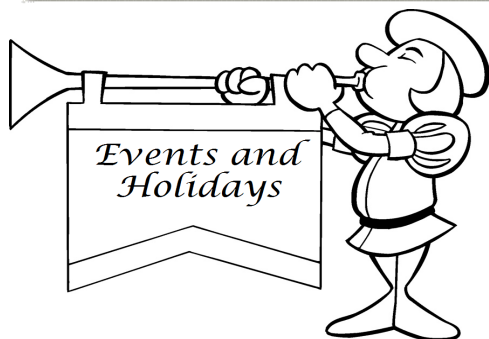
2011. Without any supporting data or information I will predict that there will be unrest in the world. Places we never heard of before will become important if only for a few days or weeks. People who are unknown now will become household

names, for good or for bad reasons. There will be devastating natural disasters, and some horrible human caused ones as well, and we will wonder how we didn't see them before they happened.

2011. With great supporting data I share the truth that at the end of 2011 just as in the beginning Jesus will still be Jesus, and he will be in control of everything. Nothing that happens this year will surprise, shock or catch him off guard. That truth comforts me and allows me to focus on the greatness of God without getting overwhelmed by whatever the events of the moment may bring. Jesus - the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Sermon Series for January and February

January 2	<i>Pure Purpose</i> Romans 1:1-17
January 9	<i>Pure Evil</i> Romans 1:18-32
January 16	<i>Pure Judgment.</i> Romans 2:1-11
January 23	<i>Pure Law</i> Romans 2:12-16
January 30	<i>Pure Justice</i> Romans 3:1-18
February 6	<i>Pure Grace</i> Romans 3:19-26
February 13	<i>Pure Faith</i> Romans 4:1-15
February 20	<i>Pure Justification</i> Romans 4:16-25
February 27	<i>Pure Peace</i> Romans 5:1-5



January 1 - New Year's Day
January 9 - Second Sunday Fellowship,
Un-decorate the church, and
Pollyanna gift exchange
January 16 - Council Meeting

January 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 12 - President Lincoln's birthday
February 13 - Second Sunday Fellowship and
Council Meeting

February 14 - Valentine's Day
February 21 - President's Day
February 22 - President Washington's birthday

Monday Evening Prayer Nights begin at 5:00.
Worship Team Practice Wednesday evenings begin at 7:30.

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and Goodbye,

With new goals and ideas for the New Year also come a new Church Secretary and a new Church Clerk. Welcome Mary Koster as our Secretary and Wanda Ruppert as our Church Clerk!!!! I know both people will do a fantastic job!!!

I've enjoyed my work as your secretary and through the job have learned much. I've also come to know our congregation better. I've learned that we feel loyalty to and trust for each other. I've learned that we're forgiving of each other if something goes awry along the way and that we're all flexible and willing to adjust and cooperate if plans change or we are met with a bump in the road. Sounds like a group of Christian people to me. I truly feel part of a family that is guided by a desire to grow and are bound together by love for God and thankfulness for Jesus.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement during the past 18 months. May God bless our church not only in the year ahead but for many years to come.

Linda Noecker

MODERATOR

To My New Covenant Family,
 The New Year has begun and along with it new resolutions, promises & hope. I am so excited about the plans Pastor Jim has for us this year at New Covenant and hope you are as

well. I encourage each and every one of us to continue to pray for each other, Pastor Jim, and our Shut-ins. Even though they can't be here to worship with us, let us not forget them. Drop them a letter in the mail, or even call them and let them know you are thinking about them and that you are praying for them as well.

I don't know what the New Year will bring to us, but I know there is One who does. If we continue to pray and ask Him for His guidance I know that He will continue to bless us and take us to greater heights here at New Covenant. If God Be for us, who will be against us? We still need people to be Greeters, take offering, Lay Leaders, and serve Communion. If you feel you are being called to do any of these, please take the time to fill out the sheets on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

All the Glory Be to the Father!
Dave Leh, Moderator

SERVICE

Hello again from your service department. Not too much to report on this month. There was an exploded soda can in the refrigerator that Jim and I cleaned up. It looked like a crime scene out of N.C.I.S.

I was going to pick up bulbs and toiletries but Jim volunteered to get them through B.J.'s wholesalers. And so, begins the decline of a new budget. I'm aware of the broken toilet seat in the women's restroom and will look into getting one to replace it if possible. If I can't fix it, it may mean a new toilet in our future. We really should replace the toilets we have with new water saving toilets anyway.

I attended the ABCOPAD "Roll Out" that was hosted at Phoenixville Baptist with Lance, Carol, and Jim. It was somewhat of a learning experience for me and sparked a few good ideas that may produce fruit in time. Anyone can attend. Just think, if everyone went to it and came out with only one idea each, how much might be achieved. Besides, they had cookies! MMMMMMM cookies.

Mark

MISSIONS/EVANGELISM

In January we will be collecting the RMMO. What is RMMO? It is an annual ABCUSA offering that provides (1) "Thank you" checks to more than 3,000 retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses, based on 15 or more years of ABC service, and (2) emergency and other financial assistance based on need.

Since the Great Depression era of the 1930s, American Baptist congregations have contributed to special offerings to provide financial support to retired ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) was established in 1977 to continue this tradition.

We have here at New Covenant one of those retired Ministers, Blake Edwards.

I urge everyone to pray and give as the Lord leads. Our Goal is \$300.00.

Mission and Evangelism
Naomi Geiger

Medicine and Missionaries

Successfully responding to Haiti's cholera outbreak
by James Layton

In the face of the presidential turmoil that is part of the presidential election process in Haiti, International ministries (IM) missionaries partnering with groups like the Convention of Baptists in Haiti (CBH) and Doctors Without Borders, have mobilized to respond to a cholera epidemic that has ravished this poorest of Caribbean nations.

Hundreds of cholera patients in the north of Haiti are receiving free care and treatment in tents bordering the CBH hospital in Quartier Morin. Sectioned off in neon orange snow fence, the cholera center provides 24/7 care that includes re-hydration through oral re-hydration solution and IV serums. Patients arriving at the center are admitted while doctors assess vitals and interview those bringing the sick. The soles of shoes are sprayed in a bleach solution and hands are also rinsed by everyone coming and going.

“This is the biggest center to treat cholera in the north,” says Pastor Eugene Gedeon, CBH president. “This is a very good place to be. As teams of doctors and nurses provide treatment, they are also giving patients and their families hope. It is a very big blessing to people in Haiti.”

Dr. Stephen James, IM medical missionary, has been serving through the Ebenezer Community Health Center in Haute Limbe’. He reports of similar procedures to those in Quartier Moran., adding, “People arrive all day and night with vomiting and diarrhea, many close to death due to rapid dehydration.”

At both facilities, as well as in Grand Riviera du Nord where IM is partnering with IMA World Health, water is purified in a separate tent where hoses never stop filling containers, jugs and plastic bags – anything that will hold water. Masked attendants briskly whisk buckets throughout the entire complex. The 2% mortality rate, compared to a national rate of 16% is due to the high quality of care and a massive education strategy that refutes false rumors about the epidemic in the atmosphere of the general election.

Efforts throughout Haiti include the dedication of volunteers from the U.S. and Canada who are providing medical and logistical support and installing water purification systems. Among those focused on the educational component is IM missionary Kihomi Ngwemi, who is helping to empower women community leaders to identify the true causes of cholera. She observes, “We travel all over to train leaders and have seen big changes in latrine usage and cleaning areas with much better health overall. Along with this training we always share the love of Jesus – the source of power for our ministry.”

FROM OVERSEAS MISSIONARIES, THE JOHNSONS

We’ve done our best to make another letter with lots of pictures, and not much text. That way, hopefully you can look through it quickly! Please click on this link to view the newsletter pdf file:

[Johnson 4th Qtr Newsletter](#)

We just celebrated our youngest son, Joel’s, 3rd birthday and are looking forward to our Christmas celebration this weekend. We’ve had a busy couple of months as Dale has had a lot of travelling recently. Things are settling down a little (at least travel-wise),

but there are still some big changes coming up in the near future as we pursue a short, intense period of Gourma language study in the new year.

We appreciate your prayers and support and are always encouraged to hear from you! Please keep checking back here on our blog for more news, pictures and reflections! I know we haven’t been as consistent posting news lately, but I hope we can pick that back up again soon!

Love,

Dale, Florence, Caleb and Joel

P.S. To check out our blog, please click on this link:
<http://www.johnson.ergatai.com>

WORSHIP MINISTRY AREA

There is a meeting scheduled for January 2 after the worship service for Worship Ministry.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY AREA

Discipleship... So Easy a Fisherman can do it.

2011 brings new opportunities for the Discipleship Ministry Team. As we determine our objectives and plan out the activities for the New Year, we review our mission and overall vision for NCBC and overlay our goals of Simple Church and how best to support the needs of NCBC.

Our goals:

1. Outreach - Intentional planning to create opportunities that reach new people and share the Good News of Jesus.
2. Growth in Christ – Targeted Discipleship programs that support our families through Adult Sunday School class, Bible Champs and Toddler classes, New member classes and Baptisms. Discovering and maximizing our collective Gifts of the Spirit.
3. Fellowship and support – Reserved time and resources to support the other Ministry teams and bring unity and energy to all NCBC activities. We are excited to consider a few new activities for the coming year. Please pray with us for direction and leadership in the development of these new

programs and consider how your gifts and commitment of time may contribute to the success of our mission.

1. Quarterly Youth Activity
2. Workshop Training Seminar for area churches and community sponsored here at NCBC. Topic and dates to be determined.
3. Once per Week after-school program for our youth at NCBC and the community.

Please see Molly Dixon with your ideas and suggestions.

We make Disciples. God builds the church.
Molly Dixon
Discipleship

FELLOWSHIP

Welcome to 2011! January is upon us and we want to start the new year with a soup lunch on the second Sunday after the worship service (January 9). Bring your favorite soup or something to go with soup and join us for lunch.

After lunch we will un-decorate the church and then have a polyanna gift exchange. Bring a small gift (it can be something you no longer want) and join the fun.

In February we will have a pasta lunch so plan on attending that also.

Linda Whittington
Fellowship

THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

Bells are ringing...friends are greeting... Christmas time is near. I was so excited to receive my first Christmas gift - from the church. The cookies, the card, and the gift cards made me tear up. This showering of simple gift giving is the meaning of Christmas. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sally & Lee Shaner

We thank you for your prayers on our behalf and for our daughter Ruth Ann. She passed

from this life on August 7, 2010 after more than a two year battle with cancer.

The loss of a child is traumatic, but until the loss is personal, one cannot know the empty hole left in your heart. Each day is a challenge, but we are trying to do what she would have us do.

Use this donation in her name wherever the need is greatest.

Most Sincerely in Prayer,
LeRoy and Ruth LaBold

Thank you for your contribution to RBC Ministries. We accept your gift as provision from our Lord as we seek together to make the life-changing wisdom of the Bible understandable and accessible to all.

In this Thanksgiving season, we know we could not reach out through *Our Daily Bread* and the whole family of RBC Ministries without the support of friends like you.

There is no greater harvest than the praise of an ever-growing chorus of people who join hearts and voices in giving thanks to God for His inexpressible gift.

Sincerely,
Martin R. DeHaan
President

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Love,

Dale, Florence, Caleb and Joel

P.S. To check out our blog, please click on this link: <http://www.johnson.ergatai.com>

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.

✠ 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

POEMS FOR THE NEW YEAR

A New Year With The Lord

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things
The things of this past year
The Lord will do new things in us
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace
- M.S.Lowndes

Come, Holy Spirit

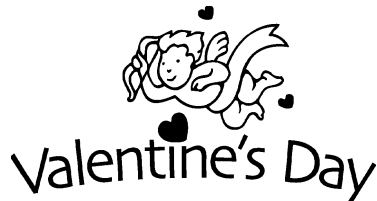
Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us
today and always.
Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
Be our Strength, our Courage,
and our Sanctifier.
May this new year be a time of
deep spiritual growth for us.
A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Be with us today and always. Amen

Encouraging Predictions for 2011

The Top 10:

1. The Bible will still have all the answers
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-annointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great to remember Who is really in control!! "the Word of the Lord endures forever." 1Peter 1:25.



is February 14th



God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

Bible Verses of Love

To love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices. Mark 12:33

We love because He first loved us
1John 4:19

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and truth
1John 3:18

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.
1Corinthians 13:13

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.
1John 4:12

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.
Romans 8:28

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.
Psalms 37:4

Therefore, be imitators of God as well-beloved children
Ephesians 5:1

OF FAITH AND WISDOM:

I will stand at my watchpost...I will keep watch to see what He will say to me,...the righteous live by their faith.

Habakkuk 2:1,4b

When your dreams turn to dust, vacuum
Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take nothing you have received....but only what you have given: a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage. St. Francis

Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none.
William Shakespeare

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.
James 1:5

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.
Nelson Mandela

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
James 4:8

Speak when you're angry, and you'll make the best speech you'll ever regret.
Lawrence J. Peter

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."
Psalm 91:-2

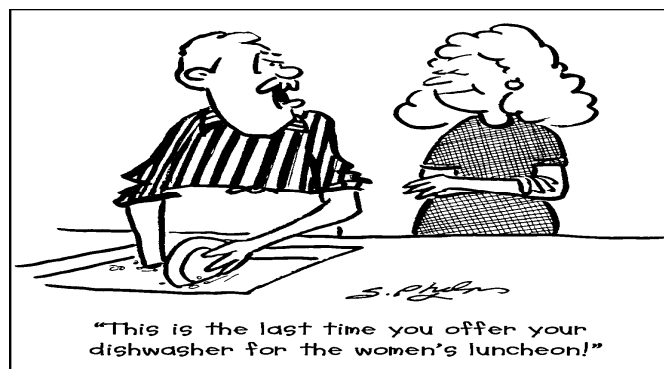
The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. Galatians 5:22-23

The Lord loves those who hate evil; He guards the lives of His faithful
Psalm 97:10

Never be afraid to try. Remember: Amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic.
Unknown

Be a good listener. Your ears will never get you in trouble.
Frank Tyger

And for those who share matrimonial bliss:



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: If you are submitting Redner's Tapes, please make sure that you hand in your actual Redner's cash register Save-A-Tape receipts, and not the Summary for the Gas Perks. **If you need to keep your cash register receipt for your records, ask the cashier for a duplicate, or just cut off the bottom of the slip that says "Save-A-Tape #, Level #, Today's Totals, Price Based Pts" and put that in our box. Thanks.**



**Look Who's Having
a Birthday!**

January

- 1 Kaylene Krepps
- 5 Theresa Sutton
- 6 Paul Blank
- 7 Tyler Dixon
- 21 Jade Koster
- 24 Lee Shaner
- 25 Tom Johnson

February

- 7 Nicholas Ruppert
- 11 Edwardine Baker
- 17 Andy Ruppert
- 17 Jackson Koster
- 20 Sherry Wieand
- 26 Aaron Leh
- 26 Nathan Antrim



*Happy
Anniversary!*

February

- 17 Chuck and Karen Kent

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, Bill Buckner, Helen Kurtz, Irene Quaglia, Sally Shaner, and Jim and Joyce Sherman

Please pray for:

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

Brian Koster – rebellion

Jade Koster - confusion

Donna Eckenrode – personal struggle

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

Greta Wagner – (Pastor Sutton) – health concerns

Jim Bunker – (Jo Ann Quaglia) – cancer

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

Joyce Galetti (Tracy’s mother) – healing

TREASURER’S REPORT THROUGH DECEMBER 15, 2010

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income	\$65,523.77
Expenses	<u>74,907.26</u>
Difference	\$-9,383.49 (deficit)

The figures above in the Difference line are actual deficit numbers.

This amount of money to pay staff salaries and ordinary operational bills has come from our limited reserves.

