

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All members of Christ's family have gifts and skills with which God has blessed them, and He calls us to use them in His service. The Diaconate wants to help you find ways to share your gifts and skills with other members of Covenant.

During the Mission Conference February 22-24, our church will focus on the many ways in which God calls us to serve. We ask that each member of Covenant complete the enclosed survey and return it Sunday, February 24. You may turn it in at the Missions Marketplace during the Sunday school hour, drop it in the offering plate during worship, or deliver it to the church office on another date.

Additional copies of this survey will be posted on the church website and available in the office.

Please take time to prayerfully consider where God is leading you.

SERVICE AREAS

Please consult your church directory for numbers of the members and staff listed as contacts.

3Ms: 3Ms are Covenant's More Mature Members – generally those 55 and older. The 3Ms have luncheon with a program on the first Sunday of most months at the church. They also hold occasional special events, such as their annual New Year's Eve party. Members of this group minister through visitation to those who are ill or in assisted care facilities. The steering committee meets monthly. For more information, contact Howard Nichols, Sis Fryant, or Bill Steele.

Children's Music: Helpers would assist Mrs. Carolyn Sachs and Carol Jackson during Wednesday night activities, during Sunday school, and/or during the Sunday morning worship service once per month. Helpers serve in a variety of ways as pianists, guitarists or singers, as "word card" holders, assisting with rhythm instruments and generally helping maintain a degree of calmness and order. For more information, contact Carolyn Sachs.

Communion preparation: Prepare elements and table for communion, usually the day before the service. Following the service, collect cups and put away the service pieces. 2 ½ hours, 2-3 times a year. For more information, contact Sue Davis or Nell Jordan.

Covenant Children's Programs: When children are baptized, we pledge to nurture them and help them grow in the faith. There are many ways to support Covenant's children – through teaching, music, art, reading, storytelling, recreation, cooking, or simply your presence. For more information, contact Kathy Frye.

Covenant Cupboard: Be part of a team that prepares and delivers meals to Covenant families to offer support during times such as illness, mourning, or birth of a baby. Teams rotate monthly and are generally on call two months each year. For more information, contact Linda Lambeth, Nancy Steele, or Tonya Favreau.

Covenant School for the Arts: Several different types of gifts are needed. 1.) *Assistant to the Preschool Ballet Teacher* on Tues. or Wed. from 1:15 to 2:15. Can begin right away until the end of April. The assistant would walk the little ballerinas from Preschool to the Youth House with the teacher, assist the girls in changing into ballet clothes, and help with other needs that might arise during the class. There is remuneration for this service. (2.) *Help with odd jobs* – painting a room, building shelves, etc. There is not a long list, but some items that would greatly help our teachers. (3.) *Reception planning* – Our recital on April 26th has two receptions, one for ballet and one for music/art. Need assistance to help pull the receptions together. For more information, contact Karen Johnston, phone (601) 981-9406, cell (601) 951-1762, or email csa@covenantpresjackson.com.

Extended Session: Stay with Covenant's younger children during the worship service. You will play with them, serve them a prepared snack, accompany them to Bible story time in the children's dining room, and help them

with a simple, prepared craft project. Two- and three-year-olds are in one classroom, fours and fives in another – two adults to a class. 4-5 times per year. For more information, contact Kathy Frye.

Events: Help with church events such as Garaywa Getaway, receptions, missions conference. You can join a planning committee to help organize an event or share your decorating skills by making floral arrangements, table decorations, etc. There is also a need for individuals to help coordinate memorial services by working with family, clergy, funeral home representatives, and florists, and by arranging visitation reception at the church. For more information, contact Kirsten Shaw or Frances Braswell.

Flower Committee: Covenant's Flower Committee is composed of women of all ages who enhance our worship by arranging Sanctuary flowers 3-4 times per year. This work is assigned in teams of two, and new members are paired with an experienced partner. The entire committee gathers once a year for Hanging of the Green in December, and the ribbon banners and sanctuary hangings are also the responsibility of this group. Membership is open to anyone who desires to be a part of this creative ministry. For more information, contact Kitty Fuller, Ann Barron, Judy McNames, or Susan Mayfield.

Folding/Collating: Help with the weekly church bulletin, the monthly Spire, and various mailouts. The bulletin is completed on Fridays, and the mailings are prepared as needed. Contact Olivia Hansford.

Greeting for Sunday worship: Greeters are posted at the Narthex entrances to welcome worshippers to the service. 30-45 minutes, 3-4 times a year. For more information, contact Roy Furrh.

Habitat for Humanity: Each fall, Covenant partners with New Hope Baptist Church, Briarwood Presbyterian Church, and a family in need of housing to build a simple, decent home for the family. Construction expertise isn't necessary – if you can wield a hammer or a paintbrush, you have a place. The building takes place over several consecutive Saturdays, and volunteers may sign up to work on as many Saturdays as they like, 8 am-noon and/or 12:30-4:30 p.m. Volunteers may also help with other houses throughout the year. For more information, contact Slade & Susan Exley or Mary Louise Shaw.

Handbell Choirs: The Handbell Ministry at Covenant serves our own church as well as the community. There are two choirs, Paul Gaudet Memorial, which meets Mondays from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m., and Covenant Evening Bells, which meets Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Both choirs ring in worship services at Covenant, and, in December and April, each choir does several programs in area hospitals, retirement homes, and children's homes. Ringers need a rudimentary knowledge of note and rhythm reading and 1½ hours each week to give...we'll take it from there! In addition to the outreach facets, members also form a very close small-group ministry. For more information, contact Susan Mayfield at 601-956-9464 or susmayf@bellsouth.net.

Katrina Relief: Help is still needed on the Gulf Coast, and Covenant teams travel there 1-2 times per month. Generally it involves light physical work, such as painting or caulking. Teams leave early in the morning and return the same day, in the evening – usually on a weekday. For more information, contact Mary Louise Shaw.

Landscaping and other grounds care: Help take care of the flower beds and patio areas of the church grounds. Monitor the sprinkler system to ensure proper watering. Care for indoor plants. Time commitments vary. For more information, contact Sai Ireland.

Ladies' Chorus: Enjoy Christian fellowship during twice-monthly singing rehearsals for those who love to sing but have limited reading ability or singing experience. The Ladies' Chorus sings in worship about 4 times per year. Fellowship activities are also held. For more information, contact director Carolyn Sachs.

Library: Covenant has many resources in its adult and children's libraries. Help with organizing, purchasing, or raising support. For more information, contact Candace Ballard or Frieda Lauderdale.

Meals on Wheels: Working with a partner, volunteers prepare or deliver hot meals to 24 shut-ins throughout the Jackson area. Opportunities are available on the first Tuesday, third Thursday, and second and fourth Saturdays

of each month. Cooks prepare meals four times a year and drivers deliver once monthly or as available. For more information, contact Virginia Warren, Susan Exley, or Frieda Lauderdale.

Men's Chorus: Enjoy Christian fellowship during twice-monthly singing rehearsals for those who love to sing but have limited reading ability or singing experience. The Men's Chorus sings in worship about 6 times per year. Fellowship activities are also held. For more information, contact director Stephen Sachs.

Missions: In addition to its many local involvements, Covenant is active in foreign missions through short-term trips, support for mission organizations and special projects, and support for full-time missionaries. There are many ways to take an active role. Covenant groups regularly go to Honduras and Kenya – for building and water systems projects; for Bible schools; and for fellowship with believers and nonbelievers. Other places such as Brazil may be added soon. Here at home, you can help by donating to, setting up for, and working at our semiannual rummage sale – the next one being March 8. You can help put on our annual February Mission Conference. You can contribute to our overall mission effort by joining the Missions Committee, which meets for about 1½ hours 9-10 times during the year. For more information, contact Bert Crump, or for the rummage sale, Susan Exley.

Musical instruments: Covenant offers various opportunities to share your talent for playing musical instruments. Musicians sometimes play for programs and services, accompany the choral and handbell choirs, play along with the singing during evening or children's programs. We incorporate many musical styles, which means a variety of instruments ranging from piano and flute to electric guitar and drums. For more information, contact Stephen Sachs.

Nursery: The nursery's mission is to provide a safe, loving, and inviting place for the babies of our members and guests while their parents are attending services or churchwide functions. The nursery is for babies 6 weeks old to 36 months old. On Sunday mornings, 2-year-olds go to a Sunday school class, so the nursery provides care for infants and toddlers younger than 2. We need volunteers to interact (play!) with, hug, and rock these babies and toddlers. We are looking for people who would like to (1.) be in the nursery once a month on Sunday mornings or (2.) help in the nursery once or twice a year as needed – Sunday or Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, special services or events. There will always be an experienced nursery worker with you. For more information, contact Cookie Hughes.

Prayer Chain (telephone or e-mail): The purpose of the chains is to pray for concerns of Covenant members. The morning telephone chain begins at 7:30 a.m. while the evening chain begins at 5:30 p.m. The time commitment is less than 5 minutes whenever called. The e-mail prayer chain is another option if the telephone chains are not convenient. E-mails are sent whenever a prayer request is received. For more information, contact Kathy Hays, (601) 362-2693, for the telephone chains and Sherry Byrne, (601) 992-4802 or sherry_byrne@hotmail.com, for the e-mail prayer chain.

Presbyterian Women: Presbyterian Women support one another, church members, and those in need outside the church. Monthly circle meetings and special events such as retreats are for fellowship and studying God's Word. Day or evening circles are available. Projects include church hospitality, visitation, missions, support for Covenant's college students, support for needy children at Christmas and year-round, Casseroles for the Coast, and support for facilities that house medical patients and women and children in need. Other projects include Covenant Cupboard, Meals on Wheels, Prayer Chain, and Stewpot. For more information, contact Sandra McClendon.

Reading in services and programs: Occasionally, readers are needed for special worship services or other Covenant programs – such as at Christmas or Easter time, Mission Conference, etc. For more information, contact Bill Mayfield.

Sanctuary Choir: Enjoy Christian fellowship during weekly Wednesday evening rehearsals beginning at 7:15 p.m. and Sunday morning worship services and selected special services during the year. Note-reading is helpful as this choir sings in all choral styles including Pentecostal, English Anthem, Classical, Jazz, and many more.

Fellowship activities are scheduled periodically during the year and a lifting of prayer concerns and praises to the Lord typically ends all rehearsals. For more information, contact director Stephen Sachs.

Stewpot: Stewpot Community Services provides food, clothing, shelter, counseling and nurture to children, elderly, disabled and poor persons in the community. One of the primary ways Covenant members support this ministry is by cooking or serving meals for the homeless. Covenant provides lunch 6 Sundays per year. On those days, 6-7 servers are needed. Cooks are called on to make red beans and rice 2-4 times per year. For more information, contact Bill & Gretchen Cook or Clay & Mary Lewis.

Sound System: Help with various audio-visual needs, primarily during Sunday worship – including operating the sound system and recording the service. Contact Trey Woodruff.

Sunday school teaching: You can be a solo teacher, part of a team, or a substitute for any age level. The Sunday school superintendent and assistant superintendent line up teachers for the year, and they distribute and collect the classes' offering baskets and rolls each week. For more information, contact Mary Louise Shaw or Kathy Frye (children).

Teaching (other than Sunday school): Teach adults, youth or children on Sunday or Wednesday evenings. Vespers is from 6 to 7 p.m. on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month. On Wednesdays, following 5:30 dinner, the program is from 6:15 to 7 p.m. Children's Vacation Bible School will be June 16-20. For more information on adult programs, contact Mary Louise Shaw (Wednesdays) or Jim Weems (Vespers). For children's programs, contact Kathy Frye.

Transportation: Occasionally be called to drive Covenant members who need help getting around – to church events, doctor's appointments, errands, etc. Primarily in the daytime. Contact Olivia Hansford.

Ushering for Sunday worship: Ushers distribute bulletins, assist with seating, and collect tithes & offerings. 30-45 minutes, 3-4 times a year. For more information, contact Roy Furrh.

Vacation Bible School support: If teaching is not your gift, you can help with VBS in other ways – classroom assistance, decorations, snacks, recreation, art, and music. Dates are June 16-20. For more information, contact Kathy Frye.

Visitation: Visit new members or visitors to make them feel welcome and encouraged to be part of the life of Covenant. Visit shut-ins, those who are ill, and those who are in assisted living situations to help chase away loneliness and offer love and support. For more information, contact Glynn Griffing.

Wedding Director: As Covenant's representative, work with bride to plan/direct a wedding (and rehearsal) that is what she wants and that meets Covenant's written guidelines relating to music, facilities, etc. Time involved: meeting with bride, planning, drawing up staging, directing rehearsal, helping bride in the hours before wedding, directing wedding. For more information, contact Frances Braswell.

Youth Work: Support and encourage Covenant's youth by cooking or providing transportation to events. Help as a teacher or substitute on Sunday mornings or Sunday or Wednesday evenings. Assist in events such as lock-ins, mission trips, and youth conferences. For more information, contact Bret Kenyon, Kate Harper, or Doyle Hays.