

The Spire

Covenant Presbyterian Church Newsletter

January 2009

From the Pastor's Desk:

As we move into the new year, you are going to start hearing me talk about some central themes to which I believe God is calling our attention. You are going to begin hearing me talk about the "values and convictions" that will drive and define how we do life together at Covenant as a body...a church. One of those values is Community. Community is "loving your neighbor as yourself." One of the necessary components of community is servanthood.

True community and servanthood are intricately tied together. Servanthood does not just involve serving Jesus, but it involves serving one another. The Bible is full of helpful instruction on how we are to relate to one another as part of the Body of Christ; part of God's community:

"... lead a life worthy of the calling with which you were called . . . with complete humility and meekness (unselfishness, gentleness, mildness), with patience, bearing with one another. . . strive earnestly to guard and keep the harmony and oneness produced by the Spirit in the binding power of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3, Amplified)

Let your love be sincere — a real thing . . . Love one another with brotherly affection — as members of one family — giving precedence and showing honor to one another. . . be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord . . . contribute to the needs of God's people . . . pursuing the practice of hospitality. . . Share other's joy . . . and share others' grief . . . Live in harmony with one another . . . If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:9-18, Amplified)

One thing that is clear is that community is achieved through humility. As we serve the Lord, and one another — community is born. One of Michael Card's (one of my favorite Christian songwriters) most profound songs deals with the issue of community and its relationship to servanthood. The Scriptural text for the song is John 13 where Jesus washes the disciples feet.

*"In an upstairs room
A parable is just about to come alive.
And while they bicker about who's best
With a painful glance He'll silently rise.
Their Savior Servant must show them how
Through the will of the water
And the tenderness of the towel."**

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:29

Jesus defines servanthood. He was and is our Servant King. He demonstrated the epitome of Christian community when He gave Himself on the cross for us. Servanthood is an exercise of the will.

We are not forced to serve one another, it is an act of obedience.

*"And the call is to community,
The impoverished power that sets the soul free.
In humility to take the vow,
That day after day we must take up
The basin and the towel." **

The Christian life is seemingly full of paradox. To the world, a phrase like "impoverished power" seems ludicrous. But Believers understand that true power comes from abandoning oneself to God. It is only then that His power can work through us to accomplish things we couldn't begin to imagine. Serving others involves putting another's well being before my own. It is giving grace, appreciating the strengths, and being willing to work with the weaknesses. It is honoring and respecting one other, and being willing to be real with each another. Servanthood is to love, edify, build up, support, listen, share, and pray for each other.

*"And the space between ourselves sometimes
Is more than the distance between the stars.
By the fragile bridge of the servant's bow
We take up the basin and the towel. **

Before we can share one another's hurts and struggles, triumphs and dreams, we have to know each other. To know each other we have to spend quality time together. We must be willing to expose ourselves, warts and all. Too often we are reluctant for others to know our weaknesses. Community requires being vulnerable. It means humbling ourselves and not only washing someone else's "dirty feet" but being willing to let others wash ours. Community means forgiving one another without bitterness, and without any residue of a grudge. Community is giving the other the benefit of the doubt, being slow to speak, quick to listen. To be a community, we **must** be an intrinsic part of each others lives.

When Believers are functioning as a unified Body, a bridge can be built to our "neighbors" around us who do not know the Savior. When a lost world sees servanthood and unity among Christians, they are drawn and want to know more. Unfortunately many times the world doesn't see any difference when it looks at the Body of Christ. There can be as much distance and alienation among God's people as there is in the world. What the Christian church needs today is to get reconnected as a Body, so we can function as God intended. That alone will draw people to Jesus. Take advantage of the opportunities that are available at Covenant to do just that...get reconnected and stay connected as a Body.....take advantage of our Sunday School program for Biblical instruction and fellowship. Come on Wednesday nights for the BEST church food you will EVER experience and then hang around for the program and let the kids have a blast in our children's program...or help out in the children's program as a SERVANT in COMMUNITY. Let's take advantage of what God has done and is doing in our midst...and see our lives transformed by the Living Power of the Risen Savior.

Grace and Peace,

Steve

Duties Roster for January

Deacon of the Week

December 24—January 6: *Kerk Mebrle*
January 7—January 20: *Alex Guidry*
January 21—February 3: *Todd Johns*

Nursery

January 4: *Susan Exley & Hannah Clark*
January 11: *TBA*
January 18: *Mary Lorenz*
January 25: *Avery Burns*

Beginners

January 4: *Jenny & Trey Woodruff*
January 11: *Sandi & Fred Cavett*
January 18: *Lisa & Sai Ireland*
January 25: *Ginny & Wyatt Emmerich*

Covenant Cupboard Contact:

Lisa Ireland
601-353-3893

Greeter

December 24—January 6: *Tina Crump*
January 7—January 20: *Sherry Mosley*
January 21—February 3: *Ann Marshall*

Little Learners

January 4: *Maggie & Christian Waddell*
January 11: *Martha & Ralph Smith*
January 18: *Christine & Rudy Polk*
January 25: *Denise & Bill Furr*

Story Tellers

January 4: *Sybil Shaw*
January 11: *Kate Harper*
January 18: *Judy McNames*
January 25: *Holly Clark*

Meals on Wheels

January 10: *Glynn Griffing, Sara Kimmel, Ann Marshall, Trey Woodruff*
January 24: *Clay Lewis, Jim Weems, Kerk Mebrle, Louis Watson, Jr.*

Communion Servers January:

Lee Davis, Slade Exley, Larry Favreau, Bud Fortner, Louis Fuller, Bill Furr, Roy Furrh, Glynn Griffing, Bill Hays, Doyle Hays, John Hubbard, Carson Hughes, Sara Kimmel

To buy your Covenant Cupboard Cookbook, call the church office at (601) 981-7236 or Frieda Lauderdale at (601) 956-9598, or e-mail (flauderdale@bellsouth.com)

Happy New Year from your Children's Ministry!

We resolve in 2009 to continue to grow in God's love and to have at least as much fun as we did in 2008!

From the Youth:

This has been a wonderful year for the youth. We've seen our numbers continue to swell, we had many successful retreats, trips, and events over the year, and we've continued to see an outpouring of support from the Covenant congregation. Perhaps the biggest display of generosity came in the form of the new church bus, which we've already been using quite a bit. We can't wait to give it the REAL test, though—a 21 hour drive to the mountains of Colorado in the spring!

But we wanted to be sure to take a moment to thank you, the members of Covenant, for all you've done for us this year. Great things are happening in the ministry, and great things are in store, and none of that would be possible without you.

So, thank you, and Happy New Year from the Covenant Youth!

The U.S. Marines Combat Logistics Battalion has arrived home safely. As we count our blessings, please know that you, our Covenant family, are remembered by many with affection and gratitude for your prayers, kindness, and care packages. Kevin and our entire family thank you from the bottom of our hearts. With His Love,
Larry, Tonya, Kevin, and Lauren Lee Favreau

January Birthdays

1 Michael Hixon	14 Mrs. Tracy Weill
3 Molly Wallace	15 Scott Penman
4 James Weems Roberta Sachs	17 Mr. Louis Watson
5 Mr. John Kroeze	18 Mrs. Mildred Anderson
8 Rebecca Weems Rachael Weems	20 Mrs. Nikki Griffing
9 Linda Nix	22 Mr. Tim Byrne
10 Anna Sullenberger	23 Mr. Clark Henegan
11 Anna Almand Mrs. Gretchen Cook	24 Mrs. Mabel Briggs
12 Mrs. Davis McIntyre Sean Galey Pryor Mehrle	26 Dr. James Hatten
13 Annalise Hays Mrs. Susan Brown Mr. Rowan Taylor	28 Mr. Jim Weems
	29 Mr. Herchell Waltman
	31 Mrs. Laura Ann Barron

Covenant School for the Arts

Covenant School for the Arts is finishing up its fall semester and looking forward to when we will begin again after the Christmas holidays. Classes for the spring semester will begin on January 5, 2009. We will continue to offer private lessons in piano, violin, art, guitar, and viola, as well as a slate of classes including preschool ballet and art, and the Watercolor Forum for adults.

We are in the planning stages of a renewed partnership with Operation Shoestring, hoping to bring arts education to the underprivileged children which this organization serves. They have a thriving after-school program, food pantry, and adult education program, as well as the Stamp Out Drop Out program for older kids. By partnering with an established organization, we hope to better utilize the gifts and resources of CSA. It is our hope to offer music, art and dance classes to the kids there. Please pray with us as we seek the Lord's guidance in this journey!

For more information, please contact Amanda Russ,
CSA Director at (601) 981-9406 or csa@covenantpresjackson.org.

General Fund November 30, 2008

Year to Date Receipts	674,657.01
Year to Date Disbursements	903,412.78
Year to Date(Deficit)	(228,755.77)

January Calendar

Thursday, January 1

New Years Day—Office Closed

Friday, January 2

10:15 am Lakeland Healthcare

Sunday, January 4

Epiphany of the Lord

Communion/ Stenpot

9:00 am Sunday School

10:25 am Worship Service

6:00 pm Youth

Monday, January 5

Preschool & CSA Classes Resume

11:30 am PW Council Meeting

12:00 pm Call to Discipleship

12:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal

6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 6

Deadline for Bulletin Announcements

7:00 am Men's Prayer Meeting

9:30 am Watercolor Forum

5:30 pm Boychoir

Wednesday, January 7

9:00 am Staff Meeting

9:30 am Oil Painting Class

5:30 pm Fellowship Supper

6:00 pm Youth/Children's Activities

6:15 pm Program

Friday, January 9

10:15 am Healthcare Ministry

Sunday, January 11

Baptism of the Lord

Stenpot

9:00 am Sunday School

10:25 am Worship Service

11:45 am 3M's Luncheon

5:00 pm Men's Chorus

6:00 pm Installation Service

Monday, January 12

12:00 pm Call to Discipleship

12:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal

6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal

5:30 pm Worship Committee

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 13

Bulletin Announcements Deadline

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

9:00 am Watercolor Forum

9:30 am Circle 2 Meets

12:00 pm Circle 3 Meets

3:15 pm Girl Scout Meeting

5:30 pm Boychoir

6:15 pm Circle 4 Meets

Wednesday, January 14

Deadline for Session Packet Information

9:00 am Staff Meeting

9:30 am Oil Painting Class

5:30 pm Family Night Supper

6:00 pm Youth/Children's Activities

6:15 pm Program

7:15 pm Choir

Thursday, January 15

12:00 pm Circle 5 Meets

Friday, January 16

10:15 am Lakeland Healthcare

Sunday, January 18

9:00 am Sunday School

10:25 am Worship Service

5:00 pm Men's Chorus

6:00 pm Vespers

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

12:00 pm Call to Discipleship

12:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal

6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm Session/Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 20

Deadline for Bulletin Announcements

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

9:30 am Watercolor Forum

5:30 pm Boychoir

Wednesday, January 21

9:00 am Staff Meeting

9:30 am Oil Painting Class

5:30 pm Family Night Dinner

6:00 pm Children's Activities

6:15 pm Program

7:15 pm Choir

Thursday, January 22

Spire Announcements Deadline

Friday, January 23

Boy Scouts Campout Weekend

10:15 am Lakeland Healthcare

Saturday, January 24

Steve Burton leaves for Honduras till 30th

Sunday, January 25

Women of Covenant serve lunch at Stenpot

9:00 am Sunday School

10:25 am Worship Service

6:00 pm Vespers

Monday, January 26

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Call to Discipleship

12:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal

6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 27

7:00 am Men's Prayer Meeting

9:30 am Watercolor Forum

5:30 pm Boychoir

Wednesday, January 28

9:00 am Staff Meeting

9:30 am Oil Painting Class

5:30 pm Family Night Supper, etc.

7:15 pm Choir