

THE COVENANT CONNECTION

Volume XVII No. 2

October 19, 2011

Covenant United Methodist Church

Nursery Servants Needed!

With two worship services, we now have more opportunities to serve others! **Can you serve in the nursery at the service you do not attend?**

It is our goal to have two people in the nursery at each worship service. We need to be sure we have a good list of substitutes in case one of our regular attendants cannot make it.

If you would like to help once in a while in the nursery, please give the office a call. There is a background check form to fill out. We pray for a quick response to this need. Thank you!

Book Review Group

Due to conflicting schedules, the October Book Review was moved into November.

Nov. 8th, 9:30am

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay

Jeannie Peer Hostess/Reviewer

Dec. 13th, 9:30am

Shanghai Girls by Lisa See

Jackie Richardson Hostess/Reviewer

New members are welcome any time. For more information please call Jeannie Peer, 466-4623

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

What a blessing it was to have **Alan Stanfield**, former Covenant Youth Director and Head Football Coach for Shadle Park High School, *kick-off* the Stewardship season last Sunday with his inspiring message. Alan reminded us that we are challenged to plant seeds, water them, and then to trust in God, who makes them grow in His time. To be faithful in our efforts for God's Kingdom requires us to **LIVE AND GIVE BOLDLY**, not only in the rich times of abundance, but also in the tougher times when we may not see the fruits of our labor. We hope this message was encouraging as you begin to pray about your commitments of faith for the year 2012.

You will soon receive a letter from Pastor Gregg with an Estimate of Giving Card in it. We invite you to be open to God's leading on how you may be able to take a "step up" in order to **LIVE AND GIVE BOLDLY**. Please return the Giving Cards by November 20th, or any time before that by mail or at Sunday services. We will have special collection "coffee cans" available each Sunday for offering your card. Then on November 20th we will celebrate together our commitments to live in faith.

In the coming weeks Pastor Gregg's sermons will challenge us to **LIVE AND GIVE BOLDLY** as disciples of Christ. The Children's Time during the Stewardship Season will be a special treat with skits performed by our own Covenant actors and actresses of all ages! Please be sure to pick up the weekly cards from the ushers which share different definitions of "**bold**", and other selections for this special season of the Church.

It is a joy to journey together!

The Stewardship Committee: The DeFelices, Grays, Greens, Hahns, and Shermans



COVENANT STEWARDSHIP 2011

Thank You

On behalf of all the patients in our region, thank you for hosting a blood drive with the Inland Northwest Blood Center. On September 25, six faithful blood donors from your organization gave the "gift of life" to patients in our region. On behalf of the many lives - past, present, and future - thank you for your commitment to INBC. Together we are working to save lives.

Jeff Bryant
President & CEO
Inland Northwest Blood Center.

Dearest Covenant UMC,
Thank you so much for hosting the youth from South Hills Church in Kennewick, WA. We are grateful for your generosity and for extending a double portion of Interfaith Hospitality during the weekend. We were blessed to have a warm, safe, comfortable place to stay and I love the cozy new atmosphere in the narthex. I pray that Covenant will continue to be a place where people can deepen their relationship with God, one another and that many new faces would be brought into the kingdom of our great God.

For His glory,
Keith Petersen

Dear Friends at Covenant,
Thank you so much for your VBS donation of 167 pounds of food. Your support means so much to us.

We are continuing to see an increase in people seeking assistance. Thank you for caring about them.

Sincerely,
Mead Food Bank

Yoplait lids save Lives! Please save the pink yogurt lids and we will send them to Yoplait in support of the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Research Foundation.



UMW

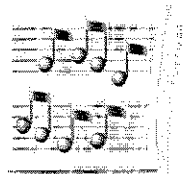
The United Methodist Women were delighted to purchase 5 large moveable plastic plant trays for the large plants in the sanctuary. This will help Lois Durham with her caring of these plants. We also purchased a vacuum for the Tidwell family and continued our support of an El Salvadoran student. Thanks for your continued support of the UMW activities. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming **Holiday Arts & Crafts Festival on Saturday, Nov. 5th.** Please come and shop and join us for lunch.

New Hope Wreaths

Christmas Wreath sales for New Hope begin soon! Orders will be taken before and after both services on October 30; before and after first service, and before second service on November 6. The wreaths will be available for pick up probably the first Sunday in December (the 3rd). These wreaths are made fresh for our fundraiser and sport a red bow. The proceeds go to New Hope to assist clients with rent, utilities, gas, and medical needs. Current needs at New Hope are toilet paper, paper towels, and size 4 diapers. Thank you for your support of this tremendous community service.



MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES



Choir Rehearsals Start this Week!

Every Thursday at 6pm.

If you miss the first day, come next week. Singing in the shower counts as experience! We will

be singing two Sunday mornings in November and into December. Can't wait to see you then!

The Marimba Band is back!

Join us for rehearsals on Monday at 7pm. We have great music for all ages and skill levels. No experience is needed, just the ability to tap your toe. We will play in November and December.

Let the Bells Ring!

Christmas bells will begin in November. Any and all are invited to be a part of the Bell Choir. We will play during Advent and maybe January. **Stay tuned for more details.**

If you're interested or have any questions about the music ministry please contact Sarah 945-1107 or smarken@gmail.com

From your Pastor's Heart

"Stewardship Focus"

Hello Friends,

We have entered that season in the church year where we again hear that word... "stewardship." I am sure the word conjures up many images among us. Maybe you think it is the time of each year when the church just asks for money, but hopefully you are beginning to have a different image of what this season means for each of us. If you were to look the word up in the dictionary, you would find that stewardship is defined as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care," and biblically we have several stories of servants that are left to care for their master's property or money. Our ability to earn money (and thus our money itself) is a gift from God, so we are stewards of God's resources here on earth. You will hear stories over the next month of how our money is being used to transform lives, but our primary focus during this time is not on the church or our budget. My prayer is that this season is a time of discernment for us to ascertain how God might be calling each of us into a deeper relationship, by asking us to consider where we spend our time, our money and our energy. This should be a time of prayer for us. Please also be in prayer for the many families in our midst that are experiencing financial upheaval due to job loss and difficulty finding adequate employment.

From October 16th through November 20th we will be celebrating this season, and you will soon be receiving a letter giving more information. We will have a culminating celebration on November 20th, and we will celebrate our ongoing faithful response to God's grace. By the way, please show your gratitude for the couples that offered to serve our community of faith by coordinating this season here at CUMC: Art & Diana DeFelice, Stan & Sheila Gray, Todd & Carmen Green, Buck & Linda Hahn and Rick & Teresa Sherman.

I am incredibly grateful to serve as your pastor.

Peace,

Gregg

Pastor Gregg

Preschool Opening

One of our families is moving in November and this creates an opening in our Tue/Thur morning preschool program. If you know a family looking for a preschool, please refer them to us! They can get more information from our website or they can call Angie Canavan, preschool director, 466-9697.

News from our Sister Church in El Salvador

We have just received a batch of 71 thank you letters from the scholarship kids at Buenas Nuevas and a letter from Pastor Chema. The children's letters will be translated and forwarded to our scholarship donors. The pastor's translated letter is as follows:

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Receive a loving greeting waiting for the God of life to bless you greatly & hoping that your lives are filled with many blessings. The reason I write is to tell you that our community is doing well and the children and young people are very happy that the school year is ending soon. The students are doing very well in their classes always trying to give their best effort.

We are always looking forward to another visit from you to our community and we pray for your congregation always. The fruit trees that you planted are growing rapidly and we hope to have fruit to greet the whole community.

We welcome your prayers for us as our country is plagued by strong violence, but with the help of God all will go well. Please write us. May God bless and protect you - blessings for all.

Pastor Chemita

Buenas Nuevas Lutheran Church
El Paisnal - El Salvador

The violence that Pastor Chema refers to in his letter has struck the Las Pampitas Church (one of the three churches he serves). A bus with members of his congregation on board was attacked by an armed gang member and five people were murdered.

Since we received this letter, monsoon rains have hit El Salvador and 36 families in our Sister Church community were left homeless. Many of the other families have suffered severe damage & loss of possessions. They are asking for our prayers.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission. If you haven't made your scholarship donations, please send them to the church office or place in the offering plates. If you would like to be part of this outreach, please contact Pastor Gregg.

In our Prayers

Bill & Rena Batt, Winifred Jacobsen, Jackie Richardson, Rick Thomas, Jim Thrapp, Jeanne Tomlinson, Dave Wheat



Sunday Schedule

Worship9:30am
Sunday School for all ages10:45am
Sunday Night Live Service 5:00pm

Covenant Staff

PastorRev. Gregg Sealey
Church Secretary Karen King
Worship Arts/Children's Ministry Coordinator .. Sarah Marken
Pianist.....Laura Everett
Custodian..... Stan Gray
Assistant Custodian Kyle Smith
Youth Director..... Bethany Pyle
Nursery Supervisor..... Marcy Hansen
Preschool Director.....Angie Canavan

Office Hours:

Mon.-Fri 9:30am-3:00pm

"The Covenant Connection" is printed twice a month by Covenant United Methodist Church. **Deadline to turn in articles for the next newsletter is Tuesday, Nov. 1.**

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Worship Helper Reminders

Oct. 23

Reader: Jackie Richardson
Greeters: George & Betty Newell
Ushers: Ron & Cheryl Vaughan
Welcome Table: Marty Erb

Oct. 30

Reader: Dave Hayward
Greeters: Bob & Terri Ratts
Ushers: Bill & Patti Osebold
Welcome Table: Ron & Karen Dashiell

Kathy Dirks from **Group 5** is the coordinator for November 6.

When you get "the call" from your group coordinator, please be prompt in getting back to them with your willingness to help. You will make their day!

Covenant Youth Happenings

Sunday school 10:45am For all Youth (7th-12th grades).
Throughout the month of October we are doing a study on the Beatitudes.

Combined Youth Group

Halloween Party! Jr. High and Sr. High Youth will meet together on Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 6:30-8:30. Bring a friend!

Regular Wednesday Youth Groups:

Jr. High Youth Wednesdays 5:30-7:00pm
Sr. High Youth Wednesdays 7:30-9:00pm

4-6th Grade Youth Pumpkin Carving!

Sunday, Oct. 23. 3:00-4:30pm

Bring a pumpkin to carve and wear a silly hat. We will have the carving tools, but if you would like to bring your own, feel free. Wear clothes that can get dirty and bring a friend.

