

# THE COVENANT CONNECTION

Volume XVII No. 7

January 4, 2012

## Covenant United Methodist Church

### Year End Statements

The 2011 Individual Statements of Giving will be available to pick up in the narthex this Sunday.

Statements not picked up will be mailed before the end of the month.

### Book Review Group

Jan. 10th, 9:30am

#### Room

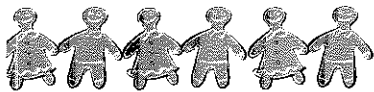
by Emma Donoghue  
Cheryl Vaughan/Reviewer  
Diane Thomas/Hostess

Feb. 14th, 9:30

#### *A Dog's Purpose*

by W. Bruce Cameron  
Barb Miscoi/Reviewer

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



Copies of the Charge Conference packets are available in the office if you were unable to come on Dec. 11.

### Addictions & Grace

#### A sermon series for January - February 2012

Attachments - Cravings - Dependencies...  
We all have them! But how do we deal with them?  
Is there any hope? What is "Grace" anyway?



Join the conversation: As Christians, we don't always have the answers, but our journey together will help us rethink what being a Christian means - to ourselves, to others, to Jesus. Join us for a series of thought-provoking concepts in the hope that we will keep the conversation flowing.

#### Message Topics for January through Mid-February, 2012:

- Jan 8 "Desire: Addiction and Human Freedom"
- Jan 15 "The Experience of Addiction"
- Jan 22 "The Nature of Addiction"
- Feb 5 "Empowered to Overcome Addiction"
- Feb 12 "The Consecrated Life"

### Inland Northwest Blood Center ~ Blood Drive Sunday, January 22nd ~ 9:00am-11:30am

**We hope to increase our participation and have more people sign up to donate at our winter blood drive!!!**

#### To be eligible to donate blood, donors must:

- Be at least 16 years old, (16 & 17 year olds need to complete a Minor Donor Consent form) there is no upper age limit.
- Be in general good health including free of any cold or flu virus symptoms
- Wait one year from the date they had a body tattoo or piercing
- Wait one day following the completion of their last dose of antibiotics
- Wait six weeks following pregnancy
- Not have participated in activities that would put them at risk for infectious diseases such as Hepatitis or HIV.

Sign up to save a life with the church office, 466-1768 or at [www.inbcaves.org](http://www.inbcaves.org)  
Sponsor code is: CovenantUnited

# Thank You

To our Covenant Family:  
Chris and I would like to thank you all for all the help and support you have shown us. We appreciate everything that you all have done. You have made our transition a lot easier. The outpouring of friendship and concern has been amazing. We felt very lost before we found Covenant. You have all made us feel at home and we so deeply appreciate everything. Thank You so much. We hope everyone has a great New Year. Thank you,  
The Tidwells

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*I would like to thank the congregation for your generous Christmas gift and for all of the support you have given me over the years. "Happy New Years to you all."  
Stan Gray*

## Worship Servants

Thank you for offering your gifts to the Covenant worship experience. You are appreciated!

### January 8

Reader: Kyle Smith  
Greeters: Dean & Peggy VanDeLeest  
Ushers: Dave & Mary Larsen  
Welcome Table: Tom Robinson

### January 15

Reader: Judi Morgan  
Greeters: George & Betty Newell  
Ushers: James Hammond & Sarah  
Welcome Table: Rick & Diane Thomas

### January 22

Reader: Ken Cogswell  
Greeters: Jacquie Hilpert-Belzman, Jan Oman  
Ushers: Kent & Jackie Richardson  
Welcome Table: Ron & Cheryl Vaughan

## Spokane Alliance and Washington State Job Stimulus proposal

The *Spokane Alliance* has been approached, along with its sister organization, *Sound Alliance*, regarding potential support for a \$1 billion state job stimulus proposal to be presented to the 2012 legislative session. I need Covenant's input regarding supporting such a proposal. Please join me for a short 30 minute meeting on Sunday, January 8 in room 13 immediately following the Adult Education hour.

Thank you for your support of the *Spokane Alliance*.

Tom Robinson  
467-8245

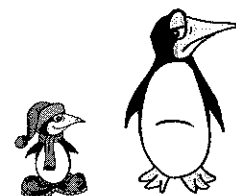
## Christmas Play DVD

A big THANK YOU to Mike Sparkes! Jill's husband video taped the children's Christmas play and burned copies to DVD for anyone who would like to have a copy.

Please see Karen in the church office if you would like to view or have a copy.

## Preschool Corner

Our preschoolers have returned from winter break and the fun continues!



### This Month's Assignments

We will study letters "Nn, Oo, Pp and Qq" in January. We will practice name and numbers and study everything from newts, penguins to octopus and quail. We will have some fun and silly days ahead such as pajama day ~ January 19 & 20. We will enjoy activities such as paper plate skate!

### God Hear My Prayer

God in heaven hear my prayer,  
keep me in thy loving care.

Be my guide in all I do.

Bless all those who love me too.

Amen.

# From your Pastor's Heart

## "New Sermon Series"

Hello Friends,

I hope you had a blessed celebration of Christmas! I want to let you know that in January and February, we are delving into a pretty interesting subject in worship in both the mornings and evening services. The new series is entitled, "Addiction & Grace," and it helps us to look at the *attachments, dependencies* and *cravings* we ALL have. I would love to hear your feedback as we enter into this new season! Remember last January we did a sermon series on "When Christians Get it Wrong" with the hope that we could think critically about some important issues, and be the kind of Christ-followers that 'get it right.' That was extremely well received, and I am excited to delve into this challenging subject.

I am always looking for ideas for sermons and sermon series'. If you have ideas, please give them to me! It might be a specific theological topic, a specific character or book of the bible, or it might be a topic that confronts you in your daily life. In late January I will be planning for April through September/October, so submit your ideas soon!

I am sincerely grateful to be your pastor. Let me know if there are any ways that we can assist you in your journey of faith!

Prayerfully,

*Gregg*

Pastor Gregg

## Render unto Caesar Reclaiming our Prophetic Voice

2012 Eastern Washington  
Legislative Conference

**Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012**

8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Episcopal: Cathedral of St. John  
127 E. 12th Ave. - Spokane

Keynote

**'The Global Economy and Us'**

**Julia K. Stronks, JD, PdD**

Edward B. Lindaman Chair and professor of political science,  
Whitworth University

**Panel: Economic Justice Statements of Churches**

The Rev. Dale Cockrum - United Methodist District Superintendent  
The Rev. Pat Martin - Ecumenical Officer of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane  
The Rev. Jimmy Pierce, president of the Spokane Ministers Fellowship  
The Rt. Rev. James Waggoner, Jr., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane

**Workshops Sessions**

State Budget and Revenue Issues • Environmental Stewardship  
Advocating Congregations • Being a Prophetic Pastor  
Interaction with Keynote & Panelists on Faith and the Economy

**For information, contact**

Malcolm Haworth - The Fig Tree - (509) 535-4112  
The Rev. Paul Benz - Faith Action Network (206) 625-9790

**TO RSVP**

Send suggested donation of \$20 (scholarships available)  
To The Fig Tree • 1323 S. Perry St. • Spokane WA 99202

**FAITH ACTION NETWORK**  
A Partnership of the Christian Guild

## In our Prayers

Bill & Rena Batt, Jim Forkner, Jim Thrapp, Dave Wheat, Gordon Wilson & Angelika Wilson-Wipp and family.



## Adult Education

On January 8, we begin a new series. We will continue the "Challenge of Jesus" series later in the Spring.

Sara Ferris will be leading us in a study of some of the psalms. Sara is an outstanding teacher in District 81 and is a skilled communicator. She describes this first series of classes in 2012 as follows:

"If you have ever read the Psalms, you may have noticed that the writer is very able to be honest and real about all kinds of feelings, including pain and anguish. However, our culture tells us that all problems are solvable or manageable and that we just need to pop a pill or buy the best self-help book!

In the *Psalmist's Cry*, Walter Brueggemann suggests that in denying our pain, we may lose out on allowing God's mystery to unfold and the depth of its goodness.

In his book and a 5-week DVD series, Brueggemann explores the Psalms as a guide to helping us explore our feelings in fresh and honest ways, maybe in ways that are not always expected in the Christian community."

Walter Brueggemann is known throughout the world as an Old Testament Scholar. He has authored 58 books and many scholarly articles. He has a unique style of looking at the Old Testament and one that we think the class will find very helpful and refreshing.

## Sunday Schedule

Worship .....9:30am  
Sunday School for all ages .....10:45am  
*Sunday Night Live* Service ..... 5:00pm

## Covenant Staff

Pastor .....Rev. 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, Jan. 17**

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## **Return Service Requested**

## **January Youth Events**

### **"Big G Time" Sundays at 10:45am**

This is our new name for Sunday school. It is a time where kids can gather together and learn more about what God is all about. Through the month of January we are continuing our study of the armor of God.

**Super Tuesday** - Jan 10th 6-9pm. Once a month, our Jr. High students hang out with other Jr. High students from churches in North Spokane. This month we will be going to Sky High trampoline complex! Bring \$5 and a friend. You will need a signed permission slip to go.

**High School Neon Bowling** - January 21st. The High school youth will go to Lilac lanes. Meet at the church at 8pm and go to Shari's for milkshakes. We will bowl from 9-11pm. Wear your best neon outfit! Bring a friend and \$10.

### **Weekly Youth Groups**

High School ~Wednesdays at 7:30, Jr. High ~ Wednesdays at 5:30

## **2012 Upper Room Disciplines**

Purchase your copy of the 2012 Upper Room *Disciplines* for \$10.

We get a price break for buying in bulk, you save \$2 off the cover price!

Cultivate your Relationship with God through daily prayer and devotions.

We still have 25 copies of the 2012 Daily Devotional book, *Disciplines*. Get yours before we are out!

