



August 2010
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THE COVENANT

Practice Makes Perfect?

As some of you know, I've been working on my golf game, and I've been learning just how important practice is. Most of us go out and swing at the ball and play roughly the same game every week, give or take a few strokes. It's frustrating because we never seem to get much better. So imagine my surprise when one week I went out and hit a bucket of balls a few days before my next round of golf. I started off terribly, but after 10-15 balls I was improving. After 65 balls I was exhausted, but my swing was actually working. The next week, I did better than I ever had before by nine whole strokes. I can tell you just how excited I was...and how disappointed I was the next week, having done no practice, to be back to normal. Yet even that one practice has kept me from getting anywhere near my worst scores.

We all learned the adage that "practice makes perfect." This is horse pucky. No matter how much I practice, I'm never going to be a great golfer. However, someday I might be a decent one. Very few people make it into the major leagues or onto the beloved Redwings roster. But with practice, even a very average player in most sports can improve to the point where they can enjoy it, even if it's only playing pickup games or putting on the local course.

There is nothing we do that cannot be improved with practice in our spiritual lives, either. The Bible is incredibly strong on telling us how to behave, teaching us "fruits of the Spirit" like kindness, gentleness, and self-control. The Bible seems weak, however, on giving us practical tips *how* to do those things. Even if we learn from church that kindness means being friendly to the waiter or grocery clerk who treats me rudely, it doesn't give me advice on how to *be* nice...and not just nice, but loving to those who hate us (as Jesus Himself taught).

I think there're a couple reasons for this. The first is that practice is the most effective way of learning godly life skills. To become a self-controlled person, practice self-control. It won't always work. Those of us with acid tongues or a vocabulary of swear words may find that language leak out from time to time. But active practicing, being willing to say, "I am going to practice being a new creation in Christ today," will help you move forward. Reading about patience or joy or peacefulness is good, but only inasmuch as you actually do those things.

The second reason the Bible doesn't give out much advice is because there's one thing we need to practice more than anything: looking at Jesus and being close to Him. When we live our lives waiting on Him and exploring the Scriptures to know more of Him, we will become more like Him. Just this week, I read where researchers at the University of Georgia have found that thinking about someone with good or bad self-control makes you more (or less) likely to exert self-control. Believe it or not, a suggestion of a person flashing on a screen for just 10 milliseconds changed the behavior of the volunteers in the research. If this is the case, then imagine what might happen if when we faced our challenges throughout the day, we looked to Christ? Rehearsing the life of Jesus in our minds can actually guide us into the spiritual fruits that can change the world.

So...what are you going to practice today?

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Jason



ENJOY SUMMER!
INCLUDE CHURCH IN YOUR SUMMER PLANS



SERMONS & SCRIPTURES

August 1

Sermon "Signs, Salvation & The Spirit"
Scripture Joel 2:23-32; Ephesians 1:1-14;
Acts 2:1-41

August 8

Sermon "Arise, Church, Arise!"
Scripture John 12:44-50; I John 5:1-05; Acts
2:42-47

August 15

Sermon "Until the Whole World Hears"
Scripture Isaiah 45:20-24a; Revelation 7:9-
17; Acts 11:1-26

August 22

Sermon Guest Speaker Rev. Kelly Pittman
Scripture TBA

August 29

Sermon "The Vilest Offender Who Truly
Believes..."
Scripture Ezekiel 36:22-28; I Corinthians
15:1-10; Acts 9:1-22



DEACONS' DEEDS

"True charity clears the heart of obstacles that hinder the hand from reaching out to help someone."

Source: Michael Straessle, http://www.ehow.com/how_4571831_what-does-bible-say-charity.html

During the second quarter of this year, the food pantry has provided 11 people with food assistance for a total family member count of 17.

Eight (8) additional families have ordered and received Deacons' AFM food boxes during this same period of time. (See Gary Cynowa for further details.)

A true blessing has been bestowed on the pantry by an anonymous contributor outside the Church who donates three (3) bags of canned/dried foods per week, from Meijers.

Our deepest appreciation goes out to all who have directly contributed to the pantry or via the Deacons' fund.

Please remember to let a Deacon or the Pastor know if you are sick or in the hospital.

God bless you, Gay Rapin

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES



For our AFM July monthly food order we had a total of 46 boxes. While we still get regular requests for limited free food from our pantry, we have noticed as have other host churches in our area a reduced number of AFM orders. Some believe that this may be a part of the effect of delayed unemployment and food stamp/EBT card payments. Others think that increased competition from other food stores and the immediacy of getting food when you want it have also contributed to that lower number of boxes. In either case, AFM is concerned enough that this month they have lowered some prices slightly and have arranged for a Macomb County meeting on Tuesday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Warren Woods Hope Pantry on Groesbeck to discuss any issues or ideas we may have.

Special thanks go to, Gary Cynowa, Curt Reynolds, and Ed Rapin for picking up the food boxes at the new Nazarene warehouse and bringing them to Covenant on July 31st. Special thanks also go to the set-up and packing crew of Gloria Cynowa, Gay Rapin, and Maxine Stephenson for a job well done on that Saturday. The day was made even more interesting when the truck delivery to the warehouse arrived almost two hours late.

Orders from August's AFM regular menu, prepared by Dorothy Joseph and listed on our Covenant website by Ed Rapin, started on Saturday, July 31st and run through Sunday, August 22nd at church and online. Delivery will be made on Saturday, August 28th at 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

If you would like to help with the 8:15 a.m. food pick-up at the warehouse, or help the set-up crew at Covenant at 9:00 a.m., please let Gary Cynowa know after the Covenant Sunday services or give him a call at (586) 291-0399. *We also are in need of good, sturdy, large cardboard boxes for our AFM signature box packing; please bring some to church with you if you have any available from home or work.*

TALK BACK WITH THE PASTOR

Ever had a question that didn't get answered in the sermon? Had a quandary about a biblical passage you encountered during the week? Not sure where to find some answers? Then you will want to stick around each Sunday for Talkback! Following the service, Pastor Jason will be available in the Fellowship Area for you can ask questions and study the sermon topics a bit more in depth. Even if your issue wasn't exactly covered in the service, it's fair game! Come join in as we share fellowship around the Word of God.

August Birthdays

- 8/4 Ryan Alm
- 8/12 Jason Joseph
- 8/15 Ben Putt
- 8/18 Janice Loan Portlance
- 8/23 Jackson Zech
- 8/28 Paul Pokrzywinski
- 8/29 Makenzy Lyjak
Walt Morton

August Anniversaries

- 8/3 Brian and Jill Scott
- 8/4 mike and Tammy Simmons
- 8/10 Jason and Catha Huff
- 8/15 Don and Jean Steckman
- 8/17 Dan and Jeanne Zale
- 8/27 John and Melissa Putt

Our congregation enjoys celebrating your special days. If we have overlooked your birthday or anniversary, please let the church office or one of the Deacons know.

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Armed Forces Members, including: Mark Alm, Paul Farmer & Lee Brand's son
 June Begin
 Al and Joe (medical treatments)
 Family of Anthony Byks
 Martha Cook
 Phyllis Lloyd Downs
 John Gigante (Chris DeGroot's father)
 Norm Haase
 Alise Heslin, niece of Ed P.
 Evelyn Jasmund
 Ron Joseph
 Mary Ann Krause
 Walt Lechniak
 Ruth McGraw
 Peace in the World
 Pauline
 People of Chile & Haiti following earthquakes
 Jean Plonkey
 Annetta Pokrzywinski
 Jerrilynn Portlance
 Betty Radcliffe
 Safe Travel for those on vacation
 Neil Stephenson



CHURCH OF THE COVENANT VOLUNTEERS

<i>Head Usher — Gloria Cynowa</i>		<i>Elder of Month — Connie Fuller</i>			
	<i>August 1</i>	<i>August 8</i>	<i>August 15</i>	<i>August 22</i>	<i>August 29</i>
Ushers	David & Margaret Neebes	Steve & Mary Jane Harcourt	Ed & Gay Rapin	Gary & Gloria Cynowa	
Greeters	Gloria Cynowa		Sandi Haapala	Barbara O'Mara	Ed & Gay Rapin
Coffee Hour	Phyllis & Norm Haase	Catha Huff	Sandy VanVyve & Jill Scott	Men's Group	Mary Ann Krause & Jeanne Steckman
Cookies	Denise Tilly & Mary Ann Krause	Jeanne Steckman & Diana Byks	Maxine Stephenson	Melanie Greer & Tammy/Sue Simmons	Margaret Neebes
Nursery	Available —	Please Contact	Usher for	Assistance	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

THE ARK – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
ALL YEAR LONG!!!

Join us each Sunday this summer for another episode of our “Survivor” adventure! You won’t want to miss all the fun we are having each week. PLUS – You don’t want to miss “The Nick and Cooper Show”. Nick is sure to have some crazy questions for Cooper and you won’t want to miss what happens next!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
COMMITTEE – WE NEED YOU!

The Christian Education Committee is looking for new members with helping hands and great ideas. We welcome everyone who was a kid, has kids, has grandkids, or is still a kid themselves (you should be able to find yourself in this list somewhere). Please see Connie Fuller, Diana Byks or Barbara Chadwick for more information about our committee and meeting times. We appreciate your continued support as we strive to provide creative, fun and educational learning opportunities for Church of the Covenant.

OUTREACH

Please think about joining a mission group to help rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The Presbytery has planned a trip from October 30 to November 7 to New Orleans, LA. Housing for volunteers is in the Olive Tree Village near the Lower Ninth Ward. There are several dorms featuring bunk beds, heat/air conditioning, delicious hot meals and showers. Travel will be by van pool with other volunteers. The cost is \$225 and includes room and board for the week and a hotel room (double) there and back. See the web site www.hands-on-mission.com/Katrina9 for more information or speak to Gloria Cynowa.

In July, several Outreach Committee members and friends volunteered to assist at Rosco the Clown events in Macomb Township. We helped with children’s games and gave out information about our church to interested families.

COMING EVENTS

FAMILY BREAKFAST ON 2ND. SATURDAYS

A few families are getting together monthly for a family breakfast at the Ram’s Horn on 23 Mile Road and Card. We invite everyone to attend the next one on Saturday, August 14 at 9:00 AM.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On Sunday, August 15 there will be an ice cream social in the fellowship area after church. Everyone is invited to stay and enjoy ice cream with all the toppings as well as enjoy spending time with our church family.

FREE FAMILY MOVIE

On Aug. 20 at 7 pm there will be a free movie at church with popcorn and pop provided. Come have a fun night out with the family.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The next Women’s Breakfast will be held on August 21 at the lovely riverside home of Margaret Neebes in Casco Township. Please join other women of the church for a lovely brunch. We will car pool from the church at 9 am.

ROAST BEEF & PORK DINNER

On Saturday, September 18 there will be a delicious dinner at church featuring roast beef, pork, cole slaw, squash and corn on the cob. Come and bring some friends. Cost is \$20 a family or \$10 a person.

EUCHRE NIGHT

Everyone is invited to come and play Euchre at Church of the Covenant on Saturday, August 28 at 5:30 pm. Cost is \$5.00 and all skill levels are welcome. Refreshments are for sale and prizes are given. Please come on time as seats fill up fast.



SENIOR CARD CLUB & LUNCH

A group for conversation and playing cards meets on the 2nd. and 4th. Tuesday of every month. You are invited to come and play Euchre or Pinochle. Bring a sack lunch and coffee will be available. There is a 50 cent donation to defray expenses. This group is open to everyone in the community; see Phyllis Haase if you have questions.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The morning and evening Bible Study groups are not meeting during the summer and will resume in September. In a Bible study you are guaranteed to learn something new and grow friendships with others in the church. Please plan on joining a group in the Fall.

AUGUST 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship & Communion Talkback with the Pastor 11:35am	2 7pm AA Meeting	3 7 pm Outreach and Worship Committees	4	5	6	7
8 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship Talkback with the Pastor 11:35am	9 7pm AA Meeting	10 11-2 Senior Cards 7 pm Session	11	12 7 pm Praise Team	13	14 9 am Family Breakfast at Ram's Horn, 23 Mi & Card
15 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship ICE CREAM SOCIAL IN FELLOWSHIP HALL Talkback 11:35am	16 7pm AA Meeting	17 7 pm Deacons	18	19	20 7pm Free Family Movie	21 Women's Brunch at Margaret Neebes' Meet at church 9 am
22 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship Talkback with the Pastor 11:35am	23 7pm AA Meeting	24 11-2 Senior Cards 7 pm Adm. & Building and Grounds	25	26 7 pm Praise Team	27	28 9:00-10:00 Pack Angel Food boxes 10:00-11:30am Angel Food Delivery Euchre 5:30 pm
29 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship Talkback with the Pastor 11:35am	30 7pm AA Meeting	31				

VISION and MISSION STATEMENTS

Our Vision is to be a welcoming, family-oriented, community-engaged and imaginative Presbyterian Church.

Our Mission is to love God, to grow as disciples of Jesus and to make the world a better place.

The core values that inspire us to reach our vision and mission goals are:

- ✚ Having faith in Jesus Christ
- ✚ Exhibiting faith that works in real life
- ✚ Demonstrating kindness, honesty, and respect for all people
- ✚ Serving the community needs
- ✚ Understanding God's love is for all people
- ✚ Sharing all that God gives us.

These core values direct us to focus on establishing lasting, interconnected relationships with our God, family, congregation, community and the world.
(approved by Session 11/14/06)



Contemporary Worship Sun. 10 a.m.
Come and praise the Lord
Sunday Morning Classes for Children
Coffee hour after service

23401 23 Mile Road, Macomb Twp., MI 48042
 (586) 948-2440 www.covenantmacomb.org
 Pastor Jason Huff



Presbytery of Detroit

A discussion of the history of the Presbytery of Detroit must of necessity begin with the arrival of Presbyterianism in the Territory of Michigan. For unless there are ministers and churches available to be organized in to a presbytery there can be no presbytery.

In 1827, there was a sufficient number of ministers and churches in the Detroit area to constitute a Presbytery. Accordingly, the General Assembly took the following action during its meeting in May of 1827: Overture No.8, viz., an application from certain Ministers and churches in the Territory of Michigan to be constituted a Presbytery.

The following facts from independent sources throw some light on the presbytery of Detroit:

1. The General Assembly of 1828 lists Detroit Presbytery with William Page as Stated Clerk.
2. Theodore Marsh, who was nearer the sources than we are, states that Detroit Presbytery was organized in 1827.
3. Silas Farmer in his History of Detroit gives 1827 as the date when the Presbytery was organized.

After its organization in 1827 the growth of the Presbytery of Detroit was very gratifying. After 1825 many of the settlers to the territory were already seasoned Christians, trained in church work. Of the current churches in the presbytery of Detroit, 28 were organized during the 1800's.

The Church exists for those who do not yet belong to it. Throughout the 20th Century, this fundamental conviction has motivated the Presbytery of Detroit to study the meaning of mission, and of the Church in mission, and to fulfill its task in a growing metropolitan area. In addition to planting new churches, the Presbytery has engaged in a variety of ministries directed toward the social needs of the population. From the community houses of the early 1900's to the camp and conference ministries and the establishment of Presbyterian Villages begun the 1940's; from the Detroit Industrial Mission of the 1950's and 60's, to the urban church redevelopment and racial ethnic ministries of the 70's and 80's, the Presbytery of Detroit has sought to embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this ever-changing metropolitan area.

The Presbytery of Detroit looks to the future in terms of strengthening partnerships between congregations throughout the metropolitan area, and through the connectional church in local, regional, and global mission. Unique programs like the Grandale Mission Center, Barnabas Youth Opportunities Center, and the Presbyterian Development Corporation minister to people of all ages with a range of social and economic needs. A renewed emphasis on New Church Development and Congregation Redevelopment will hopefully provide a wider Presbyterian presence in this metropolitan area.

The Church like its Master is not to be ministered unto, but to minister, to serve in the world, and to become a ransom for those who know not Christ. While we celebrate the past, the Presbytery of Detroit stands ready for the future!

From the Compilations of
The Rev. Edward D. Gehres, Jr.
Former Executive Presbyter