



## *Renovations*

Have you ever done a serious remodeling project? With bids coming in to replace the church's roof and adding up all the numbers on that project, renovation is on my mind. It's expensive work. Even things that seem minor can become incredibly expensive. As we've been working to fix up our own home, we had to get some windows installed recently. We got rid of some old-school aluminum ones that had essentially no insulation and replaced them with good quality panes. Not cheap! But we can feel the difference. One of them was in the master bedroom, and we've gone from having to use a space heater at night to being quite warm and comfy. The long-term gain will be worth the difficult short-term expense. The same is true with the church roof.

There's a deeply Christian connotation to renovation. We live in "temples," the Bible calls them, but ones that have been abused by sin. The paint's peeling, the plumbing's leaking, the roof is failing, and before long, the whole thing is going to collapse. God is the master craftsman who can do the complete remodeling... but just like the church roof, He isn't going to try and repair the old shingles and make do with what's there. Nope, He's going to tear off the old asphalt and start over with His own materials that last longer than any 25-year guarantee. It's a painful process, but when God's finished with us, we will sparkle from top to bottom. We will be, spiritually, a home ready for His Spirit to dwell forever.

In our church, many of us don't have to be all that convinced of this. We know that God's been working in our lives for a while. We may have forgotten from time to time or resisted the hardships of God's renovations, but we want to be faithful to Him. We see Him rebuilding us as we are involved in devotions and prayer, in Bible studies and serving, even in having fun together at breakfasts and movie nights. My encouragement for us is to let the renovations continue; be listening for the Spirit's voice and His leadings when He needs to replace something in the dark corners of your life so God's light can shine through you.

At the same time, I want us to be thinking about who around us might benefit from being a part of Church of the Covenant. This is a safe place to do some difficult personal remodeling. We look around, and sometimes it looks like our friends and neighbors and acquaintances have everything together, like their personal "homes" are gleaming and sparkly. Many people put up this front for us while inside, they are falling apart. The recent revelations about Tiger Woods show us a sad picture of how someone can appear to have a perfect life, only for the ceiling to cave in. And so I also encourage us...talk to your friends about your faith, and most importantly, listen to their faith journey. You may find that they are beginning to realize that "being good" just isn't enough, and it's a great opening for an invitation for them to hear about the salvation Jesus offers us as a free gift.

Maybe God's been reconstructing your heart for many years and is leading you to invite others to be remade in His image. Maybe your rebuild from the ground up is just getting started. Either way, be encouraged... "I am confident that the One who began a good work in you will go on completing it until the Day of Jesus Christ comes." (Philippians 1:6)

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Jason

## SCRIPTURE & SERMONS

### Jan. 3

Sermon: Katrina Mission Team Report  
Scripture: Leviticus 25:35-38, James 1:27-2:8  
& Matthew 25:31-45

### Jan. 10

Sermon: "Kingdom Economics"  
Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:11-18, Ecclesiastes  
5:10-15 & Luke 16:1-13

### Jan. 17

Sermon: "God Knows the Heart"  
Scripture: Psalm 37:14-18, James 5:1-8 & Luke  
16:14-31

### Jan. 24

Sermon: "Reasonable Service"  
Scripture: Psalm 72:1-14, 1 Peter 4:8-11 & Luke  
17:1-10

### Jan. 31

Sermon: "Your Faith has Made You Well"  
Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-17, Psalm 107:17-22 &  
Luke 17:11-19

## DEACONS

On your behalf, we have started a food pantry, and to no surprise, many people have been helped by the supply of food we have maintained. We try to have a certain amount of basic food available at all times, so that anyone that needs to stop by our church will be given enough food to last a few days. We also suggest other places where they might seek assistance.

Since January 2009 our Deacons have spent \$1,815.00 on groceries. This is in addition to the generosity of many of our members who have made personal donations of bags of groceries. Thank you very much.

## STEWARDSHIP

It is not too late to take part in the annual stewardship drive. Members and friends who have not already done so are asked to give an estimate of their giving for 2010. Forms are available on the desk in the front lobby of the church. All gifts are needed and appreciated, whether they are large or small or if you give weekly, monthly, or quarterly.

The results of the Capital Campaign show that to date about 65% of the money needed to replace the church roof has been donated or pledged. Thank you to everyone who took part. Each week we can see the model of a church as more shingles are added to get to the goal.

## ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES



We have just completed the December monthly food order with 81 boxes. An order from the Presbyterian Church of Utica again represented 15 signature boxes all on its own for us. We also had twelve people order AFM online. This online method saves our customers from having to make a trip to our church just to order in advance, and they can use their credit or debit card to do so.

December's delivery date was Saturday the 19th. We would like to thank our early morning 8:00 a.m. pick-up and delivery crew of Gary Cynowa, Ed Rapin, and Curt Reynolds. We really appreciated the hard-working box and carry team of Gloria Cynowa, Andrew Byks, Tracy Cascio, Sandy Hopper, Dorothy Joseph, Mary Lechniak, Ed and Annetta Pokrzywinski, Gay Rapin, and Denise Tilly who also set the tables and chairs back up when we had finished serving our AFM customers.

Orders for January's AFM regular menu, prepared by Dorothy Joseph and listed on our Covenant website by Ed Rapin, started on December 19th and run through Tuesday, January 12th. For those with allergies related to gluten and other products, AFM has kept a reduced price on its special gluten-free breaded meat box to just \$23.00. Along with the usual menu boxes, there is also a new seafood box worthy of your consideration for purchase as well. Delivery will be made on Saturday, January 23rd. If you would like to help with the 8:00 a.m. food pick-up at Church of the Nazarene, or help the set-up crew at Covenant at 9:30 a.m., please let Gary Cynowa know after the Covenant Sunday services or give him a call at (586) 291-0399. We 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 at home or work.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15 at 7:00 PM**  
**FREE FAMILY MOVIE**  
**POP AND POPCORN PROVIDED**



**January Birthdays**

- 1/2 Jeff Fuller
- 1/3 Samantha VanVyve
- 1/4 Tracy Cascio
- 1/6 Mary Keebler  
Adam Scott  
Sean Scott
- 1/7 Pastor Jason Huff  
Carl Donato
- 1/15 Allison Remesz
- 1/19 Daniel Wilbert
- 1/20 Zachary Fuller  
Walt Lechniak
- 1/26 Melanie Schade
- 1/29 Jill Scott  
Sabrina VanVyve
- 1/31 Jeanne Zale

**January Anniversaries**

- 1/27 Mike and Jill Alm

(Please let the church office or a Deacon know if we have missed a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion in your family. We also appreciate notice on change of address, phone number, or e-mail as well.)

**Please remember the following people in your daily prayers:**

Armed Forces Members, including: Mark Alm, Matthew Fifield & Paul Farmer  
 June Begin  
 Al and Joe  
 Ann Marie Bratke, daughter of Mary Jane H.  
 Anthony Byks  
 Cassie, daughter of Neebes' friend  
 Martha Cook  
 Chris DeGroot's father, John Gigante  
 Denise (Dorothy Joseph's boss)  
 Phyllis Lloyd Downs  
 Carl Farnsworth  
 Alise Heslin, niece of Ed P.  
 Georgeann Kaptur, friend of Mary Jane H.  
 Lechniak Family  
 Ruth McGraw  
 Lisa Patti's Father  
 Peace in the World  
 Betty Radcliffe  
 Louise Sainsbury  
 Neil Stephenson  
 Jeremy Swix  
 Nelson & Patricia Tabenske  
 Emily Woodward



**CHURCH OF THE COVENANT VOLUNTEERS**

*Head Usher — Gloria Cynowa*

*Elder of Month — Ed Pokrzywinski*

	<i>Jan. 3</i>	<i>Jan. 10</i>	<i>Jan. 17</i>	<i>Jan. 24</i>	<i>Jan. 31</i>
<b>Ushers</b>	Katrina Mission Team	Mary Ann Krause & Margaret DeMuyneck	Barbara O'Mara & Jean Plonkey		
<b>Greeters</b>	Katrina Mission Team	Jerri Portlance	Denise Tilly	Gloria Cynowa	
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Connie & Jeff Fuller	Mary Jane Harcourt	Ed & Gay Rapin	Jerri Portlance	Mary Ann Krause & Jeanne Steckman
<b>Cookies</b>	Scottie Sowden & Dorothy Joseph	Gloria Cynowa & Phyllis Haase	Jean Plonkey & Lorraine Remesz	Jerri Portlance & Jill Scott	Margaret Neebes
<b>Nursery</b>	Schedule posted	On Nursery Door			

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

The ARK will return to our Serengeti Trek in January. Plan to join us each Sunday for Bible stories, games and snacks.

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class on Sunday mornings with Pastor Jason will wrap up in the next few weeks. The students have completed the “A Sure Thing” curriculum. Confirmation is scheduled for January 24th.

### YOUTH GROUP

The youth have met several times now with Sneha and Brittney. They used the funds raised from their bake sale and other donations to purchase toys for Youth Haven’s Christmas Toy Drive. The youth had a good time picking out items to send to this organization.

The youth group meets on Sunday evenings. For more information about meeting times and dates contact Sneha or Brittney. All youth are welcome.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children and youth did an excellent job presenting their Christmas program, “A Christmas Carol: Scrooge in Bethlehem.” We would like to especially thank Sneha George for all her hard work in teaching everyone the songs and staging our production.

### 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

The four members of our congregation who spent a week in New Orleans repairing homes had a wonderful, rewarding trip and thank everyone for their prayers. They will present a report on the trip during church on Jan. 3.

The Christmas Joy Offering to support retired mission workers and racial/ethnic schools was collected on December 27 and sent to the Presbytery. Thank you for your generosity.

## FEBRUARY ADULT DINNER

This special dinner will be on Saturday, February 13th, starting at 6:30 P.M. The cost is \$25.00 per person and the proceeds will be used to install new ceiling and upgraded lighting in the Narthex.

There must be a minimum participation of 30 people and a maximum of 40 people. If 30 tickets are not sold by February 1st, the dinner will be cancelled and those who have purchased tickets will be refunded. The menu will be as follows:

Appetizers

Soup and a Salad of mixed greens.

Entree, Choice of one of the following:

- Beef burgundy over noodles with vegetable,

OR

- Seafood (shrimp & crab) Alfredo over linguine with vegetable

Rolls and butter

Dessert

Glass of red or white wine

Tickets will be available from Dave Farnsworth, Ed Pokrzywinski, or Paul Pokrzywinski. Payment and your food choices should be made when purchasing the tickets.

REMEMBER, THIS IS A FUND RAISER.  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

Macomb Township Community Foundation is hosting a benefit hockey game between Red Wings Alumni and the Sheriff’s Deputies on Jan.10 at 3:45 pm at Suburban Ice Arena at 25 Mile & Broughton Road. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from Gary Cynowa.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan to attend the annual meeting of the congregation which will be held after church on January 31. Copies of the Annual Report will be available and will include information from all the committees as well as the 2010 budget. The 2010 Nominating Committee will be elected.

## WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Women’s Fellowship Group met on Saturday, December 5 at 11:00 am for a Christmas lunch with music at the beautifully decorated Cedar Glen Golf Club.

The next event will be brunch on the third Saturday morning of February at the church.



## FAMILY BREAKFAST

The family breakfast will be held at the Ram’s Horn Restaurant on 23 Mile and Card Road in January and February. All are welcome on the 2nd. Saturday morning at 9:00 am.

# JANUARY 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship & Communion 11:30 am Confirmation Class	<b>4</b> 7pm AA Meeting	<b>5</b> 7 pm Outreach & Worship Committees	<b>6</b> 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study	<b>7</b> 7 pm Praise team	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9 am Family Breakfast at Ram's Horn, 23 Mi & Card
<b>10</b> 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship 11:30 am Confirmation Class	<b>11</b> 7pm AA Meeting	<b>12</b> 11-2 Senior Cards 7 pm Session	<b>13</b> 7 pm Bible Study	<b>14</b> 7 pm Praise team	<b>15</b> 7 pm Family Movie Night	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship 11:30 am Confirmation Class	18 7pm AA Meeting	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Deacons	<b>20</b> 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study	<b>21</b> 7 pm Praise team	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30-11 Angel Food pack boxes 11-12:30 Angel Food Delivery Euchre 5:30 pm
<b>24</b> 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	<b>25</b> 7pm AA Meeting	<b>26</b> 11-2 Senior Cards 7 pm Adm. & Building & Grounds Team	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7 pm Praise team	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Euchre 5:30 pm
<b>31</b> 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship Annual Congregation Meeting 11:15 am						

## SENIOR CARD CLUB & LUNCH

If you are interested in playing cards, we have a new ministry for seniors. On the 2nd. and 4th. Tuesdays of every month you are invited to come and play Euchre or Pinochle. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy with friends. Coffee will be available. There is a 50 cent donation to defray expenses. This group is open to the community, see Phyllis Haase if you have questions.



**Contemporary Worship Sun. 10 a.m.**

**All are welcome to attend**

**Sunday Morning Classes for children and youth**

**Coffee hour after service**

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

## EUCHRE NIGHT



You are invited to come and join the euchre players at Church of the Covenant on Saturday, January 23 and Jan. 30 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.