

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross...

As Christians, it is a real gift to share in one another's lives. Jesus told us that anyone who follows the will of God is His brother and sister and mother. We are interconnected as Christians in ways that even the closest family cannot be. And as a pastor, it's a blessing to be able to share your joys and sorrows during the triumphs and tragedies of life. I'm thankful that COTC has been a prayerful part of the process of my own healing these last several months.

I often use this column to share some short theological insight, but this month I'm going to share several upcoming events in my life and the life of the church that I'm really excited about. I ask you to be praying for them, as they have the potential to be life-giving both to me and to Church of the Covenant.

The first is my trip to Minneapolis August 24-27. I will be a part of the Fellowship Gathering, exploring possibilities of how we can, together with other Presbyterian churches, faithfully serve God in the midst of our denomination's serious departures from Scripture. I will be traveling with my good friend Jim Rizer from Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church. I am encouraged that there are over 1,800 people signed up to be a part of this conference from throughout the PC(USA) – they expect there will be 2,000 total attendees by the time the Fellowship begins. This means nearly a thousand congregations in our denomination around the country desire to be faithful to God and His Word. I ask for your prayers that this meeting would not just be a lot of talk but that we would make significant progress towards finding a way that we can be true to God as He has revealed Himself in Scripture over countless generations.

The second exciting event is coming up on September 18th, and I ask you to put that date on the calendar. That Sunday directly following worship, we as a church will be taking the U.S. Congregational Life Survey. We are one of only a few churches in the denomination chosen to be a part of this survey. The results will help the larger church understand trends in our denomination and Christianity in the United States. Our session agreed that this survey would help us as a congregation see our unique values. It is an anonymous survey and cannot be used to judge the pastor, the session, or any other group within the church. It simply gives us the opportunity to bless the larger church and learn more about our particular strengths.

Finally, in early October I will be returning for the third year to the Wee Kirk Conference in northern Indiana. This year, I have been asked to do a presentation entitled "Modern Worship in the Traditional Church: Blending Eras with Biblical Integrity." I will be talking about my experiences in our unique situation where we have no absolute liturgy like many Presbyterian churches but instead incorporate elements from throughout the church's 2000 year history in a way that reflects God's truth. Obviously, we as a church have been growing in our understanding of worship over the last few years and are still working on it – so it should be an exciting presentation! I pray that this might bless those who attend to find ways they can reach multiple generations in their worship times.

Whew! It's going to be a busy few months. But with the Holy Spirit's guidance and your prayers, it will be an exciting and rewarding journey. I look forward to hearing about your journeys too and seeing how God has been in the middle of them!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Jason

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

But please remember to include Church in your summer schedule.



FREE COMMUNITY/FAMILY HOT DOG SUPPER and MOVIE NIGHT

Knowing that the dog days of summer are upon us in August, Church of the Covenant is inviting you all to a FREE FAMILY/COMMUNITY HOT DOG SUPPER with all the trimmings at 6:00 p.m. along with a FREE MOVIE at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, August 19th. This no mess-no fuss, free meal and a movie will be held in the air-conditioned, bug-free environment of Church of the Covenant located at 23401 23 Mile Road in eastern Macomb Township. To help us plan for enough food for all participants, please call Gary E. Cynowa at (586) 291-0399 or sign up on the clipboard in the main entrance narthex of the church ASAP.

CARD MAKING CLASS AT BETHEL

At Bethel Church on Aug. 19 and Sept. 30 there will be card making classes. These are Friday nights at 6:30 pm. The cost is \$15 per class except that the Sept. 30 class is \$20 because the materials will be more complex. Please call Rose at 586-566-6767 to pre-register for one or both of the classes.

HOPE CENTER & PANTRY

Hope Center is located at 33222 Groesbeck Highway in Fraser. It is a non-profit, volunteer organization. Their vision is to transform lives one family at a time, nutritionally and educationally. Our church is a partner with them and can refer people to their large, client-choice food pantry. They also provide referrals to a wide range of county and community agency services.

The pantry is open Tuesday thru Saturday 9 am to 3 pm by appointment only. Please call 586-294-4673 to speak to a counselor and find out what documentation to bring. Clients may come 6 times a year for food.

The Deacons are making arrangements to tour the Hope Center. Anyone else who may be interested in learning about the center or who may want to volunteer a few hours a month is welcome to come. The tour time will be announced soon.



SCRIPTURE VERSES

When you think something is impossible—God says “All things are possible.” (Luke 18:27)

When you say you are tired—God says “I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

When you think nobody loves you — God says “I love you.” (John 3:16 & John 3:34)

When you say that you can't go on—God says “My grace is sufficient.” (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

WHAT DOES GOD CALL US TO DO AS CHRISTIANS?

God calls us to GROW:

- Gather with other believers
- Renew our minds
- Outreach to the lost
- Worship the Triune God

Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 12:2, Matthew 28:19, Hebrews 12:28-29

WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S CALL?

The Church LOVES:

- Leads people to Jesus
- Offers opportunities
- Values all people
- Explores God and His Word
- Supports its members

2 Timothy 4:1-2, 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 1 :26-31, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Romans 12:4-18

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cost of replacing the air conditioner and furnace in the church. The project is completed. The Capital Fund Account needs \$1,500 more to cover the cost. Any donations you may choose to make will be appreciated.

COVENANT FOOD PANTRY

Please remember to bring canned or boxed food for our pantry. Suggested items to purchase are frozen meats, soup, peanut butter & jelly, cereal, spaghetti & jars of sauce, macaroni and cheese, and cans of tuna, chili or stew. When you contribute to the Deacon's Fund on the first Sunday of the month, this money goes toward restocking the food pantry. We are able to help many needy families each month and also support our partner effort at the Hope Center Pantry.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/4	Ryan Alm
8/6	Hope Jasmund
8/9	Christian Festow
8/10	Hubert Kepseu
8/12	Jason Joseph
8/15	Ben Putt
8/18	Loan Gallagher
8/21	Charles Kammerer
8/23	Jackson Zech
8/28	Paul Pokrzywinski Julia Wilbert
8/29	Makenzy Lyjak Walt Morton

BEST WISHES

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/3	Brian and Jill Scott
8/4	Mike and Tammy Simmons
8/10	Rev. Jason and Catha Huff
8/15	Don and Jeanne Steckman
8/17	Dan and Jeanne Zale
8/20	Lee and Darlene Brown
8/27	John and Melissa Putt

PIZZA PARTY

To thank the youth from the Lutz School who come and clean our church at no cost, there will be a pizza lunch on Thursday, August 11 at 11 am. To assist with this lunch, contact one of the Deacons or Gary Cynowa.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Bible studies are taking a break for the summer. Please watch the bulletin for the schedule when they start up again in September.

If we have missed a birthday, anniversary, or important life event, please let the church office and your Deacon know.



CHURCH OF THE COVENANT VOLUNTEERS

Head Usher — Gloria Cynowa

Elder of Month — Jill Alm

	<i>Aug. 7</i>	<i>Aug. 14</i>	<i>Aug. 21</i>	<i>Aug. 28</i>
Ushers				
Greeters	Gloria Cynowa			
Coffee Hour	Phyllis Haase	Catha Huff	Maxine Stephenson	Men's Group
Cookies	Denise Tilly & Mary Lechniak	Jeanne Steckman & Diana Byks	Maxine Stephenson & Gay Rapin	Melanie Greer & Tammy/Sue Simmons
Nursery	Barb Chadwick	Gay Rapin	Sara Byks	Mackenzie Alm

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

THE ARK

Our SCUBA adventure continues through August. Join us each week as we learn all about the Bible with some fun undersea friends helping us along. Nick and Cooper will be there too and they always put a fun twist on everything. So continue to join us on Sunday's this summer.



WE NEED YOU!

The Christian Education Committee is looking for adults and youth to help us as an extra pair of hands in the classroom on Sunday morning. Whether its one Sunday or once a month 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 Catha Huff, Diana Byks or Barbara Chadwick for more information or to volunteer. We appreciate your continued support as we strive to provide creative, fun and educational learning opportunities for Church of the Covenant.

A message from Andrew Byks:

Hello members and friends at Church of the Covenant. I am currently working on my God and Life award. As part of this program I have made a poster titled "God Calls All Kinds of People". The poster is currently on display in the fellowship hall. I hope you will take the time to look at this step towards my completion of this award. Thank You!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

There will be an ice cream social in the church fellowship hall after church on Sunday, September 11. The ice cream will be provided and served by the Outreach Committee. Please plan to attend. This would be a good time to bring a visitor to church and then enjoy the ice cream and visiting with friends after worship.



COMING EVENTS

SENIOR CARDS & SACK LUNCH

A group for fellowship and card playing meets at the church at 11 am on the 2nd. and 4th. Tuesday of every month. Please come and chat or play Euchre or Pinochle. Bring your sack lunch, coffee will be available and there is a 50 cent donation to defray expenses. This group is open to everyone in the community; talk to Phyllis Haase if you have questions.

EUCHRE NIGHT

Euchre Club will meet on August 27 at 5:30 pm at the church. Registration begins at 5:30 and play starts at 6:00 pm. Refreshments are for sale and prizes are given. Please be on time as seats fill up fast.

MOVIE AND A MEAL

Please come and bring a friend to a FREE HOT DIGGETY DOG MEAL on Friday, August 19 at 6 pm at the church. Everyone can enjoy a family movie on the big screen following the meal.

WOMEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of the Women's Group is on the 3rd. Saturday of August. More details will be available soon.

OUTREACH

Members of the Outreach Committee have been addressing and mailing letters to families living near the church and inviting them to attend worship. We hope to see many new faces and know everyone at church is always friendly and welcoming to visitors.

Our church is joining with others for a work day at Barnabas Youth Development Center on Grand River in Detroit. The work day is Saturday, August 13th. A car pool will leave church at 9:15 am and the work time is from 10 am to 2 pm. If it rains, we will paint inside the building. Hands on Mission will provide lunch. Call Gloria Cynowa at 586-949-3969 for reservations.

PARKINSON'S GROUP

A support group for families of Parkinson's patients meets the first Thursday of each month at 3:00 pm at The Village of East Harbor in Chesterfield Township. They will discuss educational topics, problem solving, social support and much more. For more information call 586-716-7164 or email cschulz@pvm.org.

AUGUST 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7pm AA Meeting	2 Deacons, Administration, B & G, Outreach & Worship Committees 7 pm	3	4 7 pm Praise Team	5	6
7 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship Communion	8 7pm AA Meeting	9 11-2 Senior Cards Session meeting 7 pm	10	11 Pizza Party for Lutz Students 11 am 7 pm Praise Team	12	13
14 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	15 7pm AA Meeting	16	17	18 7 pm Praise Team	19 Free Meal & a Movie 6 pm at church	20 Women's Group 9:27 am
21 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	22 7pm AA Meeting	23 11-2 Senior Cards	24	25 7 pm Praise Team	26	27 Euchre 5:30 pm
28 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	29 7pm AA Meeting	30	31			

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Armed Forces Members, including: Mark Alm, Trevor Brown and Cory Cynowa
 Family of Joanne Bates
 Flooding along the Mississippi River
 Marge Fuller & the Fuller Family
 Norm & Phyllis Haase
 Hope Jasmund
 Ruth McGraw
 Margaret Neebes
 Peace in the World
 Melissa Putt
 Betty Radcliffe
 Family of Ken Rhodes
 Stan (Jill Alm's brother-in-law)
 Justin & Alisha Vosburg (Missionaries)



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

HANDS-ON MISSION

Who are we?

The Hands-On Mission Work Group is a subcommittee of Mission Interpretation Ministry Team of the Presbytery of Detroit. This work group is made up of members and clergy around the Presbytery, which includes Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, Washtenaw and St. Clair counties.

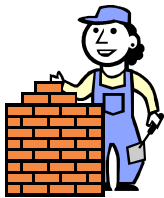
Mission

The Hands-On Mission Work Group will inspire individuals and congregations of our Presbytery to engage in hands-on mission projects so we will grow in faith and discipleship to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Contact Us:

Mary Lloyd (Presbytery Consultant) drmarylloyd@yahoo.com or 313-247-0792

Julie Smith (Pontiac First Pres.) mfan81@yahoo.com or 248-821-8216



SCHEDULE OF 2011 EVENTS

AUGUST

Our church is joining with others for a work day at Barnabas Youth Development Center on Grand River in Detroit. The work day is Saturday, August 13th. A car pool will leave church at 9:15 am, the work times are 10 am to 2 pm. If it rains, we will paint inside the building. HOM will provide lunch. Call Gloria Cynowa at 586-949-3969 for reservations.

SEPTEMBER

People are planning to return to Nashville for the second mission trip to the PDA Camp there. Car pooling will be scheduled. Go to Hands-on-mission.org to access the Mission Application Form or contact Mary Lloyd (above). The work days are September 19 to 23 and the travel time is one day each way. Cost is approximately \$100 plus a share of the gas.

OCTOBER

A group from Presbytery is returning for the 14th time to Project Homecoming in Olive Tree, LA, which is near the 9th Ward in New Orleans. You are invited to participate. Car pooling will be scheduled. The work days are Oct. 17 to 22 and the travel time will be two days each way. People of all skill levels can participate and you do not have to be a member of a Presbyterian church. The cost is approximately \$200 and includes one night's lodging each way. Please contact Julie or Mary if you are interested.



Justin & Alisha Vosburg

Justin and Alisha spoke recently at our church. They left in July to serve with World Impact Now Ministries on the Texas/Mexico border. They have a vision to equip pastors and church leaders in other countries with the training they need to better minister to their congregation and reach out to the community around their church.

Justin was born and raised in Chesterfield, Michigan and Alisha was born in Oklahoma. They are both graduates of Elim Bible Institute. They were married in 2005.

To be a part of their support team, send your donation to:

Elim Fellowship

1702 Dalton Road

Lima, NY 14485-9516

6 Or donate on line at www.elimfellowship.org