

Where Do We Go From Here?

Wow...it's May, and we're finally starting to see signs of spring after an amazingly long winter. We've seen God working in our capital campaign for the heating system (with over \$11,000 graciously given so far as of April 24th). And we are nearing the end of The Story...by the time May is finished, we will have read the entire narrative of Scripture from beginning to end. We have seen the foundation of Israel as God's people, the ministry of Jesus and the early church, and God's amazing work throughout time. We have witnessed how God has been actively involved with humanity since the very beginning, and we know that through His Son, we have forgiveness and new life...all shown in the realities of history itself.

But the Bible talks a lot about following Jesus...that believing in Him isn't just in the mind but in the heart and in our hands and feet. Jesus said to the disciples after His resurrection, "Go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20) What does it mean to be a disciple? What is it that we should obey? While our chronological account of the Bible has shown us the grand sweep of history, now it is time for us to look at what the Bible teaches. Our next series will help us to grasp the concept of the morality of the law given to Moses which Jesus explained in greater detail, and we'll explore how that morality applies to the Christian in everyday situations. Following that, we will study the nitty-gritty of discipleship itself...learning the spiritual disciplines and how to practice them in obedience to our Lord.

Meanwhile, as the summer weather begins and we all get the itch to be outside, I encourage you to stay involved with Church of the Covenant. As the author of Hebrews says, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." The blessings of being together as a community of faith highlight the wonders of God's handiwork we see in the Michigan summer.

And if you have plans to be away for a week or two – as many of us do – I encourage you to find a place of worship when you travel. I cannot tell you what a privilege it is to serve at Church of the Covenant, but I also love getting away once in a while to worship at another church. It opens my eyes to see what other Christian communities are doing – what they are singing, what they are studying, and how God is ministering through them to their communities. It reminds me that we are not alone in our faith, but that we are joined with over a billion people around the globe who proclaim Jesus as Savior and Lord. If you're up for the challenge, I would even encourage you to try a different denomination or a church outside of your comfort zone. It's amazing what we can learn when we are open to the Holy Spirit's movement!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

SPAGHETTI DINNER



Everyone is invited to a free spaghetti dinner on May 20th. Pastor Chet Decker from Warren Woods Church of the Nazarene will give a short talk on his walk with Jesus, the Angel Food Ministry and the Hope Center. Dinner starts at 6:00 PM and the speaker will be at 7:00 PM. There will be no charge for dinner, but free will offerings are encouraged and will be accepted. Please invite your friends and neighbors to come.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Dear Covenant Congregation and Loyal AFM Clients:

After much discussion and concern over the many scheduling, delivery, menu, and price changes in the last six months ordered by the Angel Food Ministries Board in Hope, Georgia, the Church of the Covenant Deacons met with our volunteer workers and voted unanimously to withdraw our participation from the Angel Food program effective immediately after the completion of our final delivery on April 30. This action in no way reflects upon our faithful volunteers and loyal customers who have been outstanding examples of patience and kindness.

It is our intention to stay actively involved in the community by continuing our own food pantry program at Covenant, providing occasional financial assistance, helping to offer a monthly meal like our free spaghetti dinner on Friday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. under the direction of the Special Events Committee, and reaching out to our neighbors in other ways as we prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance in what He will call us to do in the future.

For our customers who wish to continue with the Angel Food program at another host site, I offer the following nearby church locations and recommend that you contact them first by phone to verify their time ordering schedule.

The Well - Assembly of God Church
46000 Gratiot Chesterfield Twp., MI 48051
John Vance, Director (586) 949-7398

Trinity Lutheran Church
38900 Harper Ave. Clinton Twp., MI 48036
Greg Dennis, Director (586) 747-2381

Respectfully submitted by Gary E. Cynowa
Covenant AFM Host Site Director
on behalf of the Board of Deacons

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, and cans of tuna, chili or stew. Or you may contribute to the Deacon's Fund on the first Sunday of the month; this money goes toward restocking the food pantry for the many needy families we help each

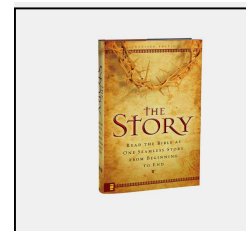
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Come and join a Wednesday Bible study! The morning Bible Study meets at 10 am and the evening Bible Study meets at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to attend; both studies are discussing "The Story". THIS MONTH, BOTH STUDIES WILL BE MEETING AT THE HUFF'S HOME.

The Sunday sermons will also be following "The Story", a condensed, easy to read version of the Bible. Copies of "The Story" for adults, teens and children are available after church. Everyone is encouraged to read one chapter a week as we finish the book together.

READ THE STORY TOGETHER

Chapter 28 — May 1
Chapter 29 — May 8
Chapter 30 — May 15
Chapter 31 — May 22
End of Series — May 29



SCRIPTURE & SERMONS

May 1

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Joel 2:28-32;

Selections from Acts 2

Sermon: The Story: Church/Spirit

May 8

Scripture: Psalm 33:19-19; Galatians 1:11-24; Acts 13:42-14:7

Sermon: The Story: Life Interrupted

May 15

Scripture: Proverbs 4:20-27; John 15:1-14; 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8

Sermon: The Story: Marathon Man

May 22

Scripture: Joel 2:11-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Revelation 21: 1-11; 22-27

Sermon: The Story: Alpha & Omega

May 29

Scripture: Acts 18:24-28; 2 Peter 1:13-21; John 5:31-39

Sermon: How Then Shall We Live?: Trusting the Bible

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.

DON'T FORGET HOME PLATE 2011 — DETROIT

19 People are signed up to attend a Tiger's game and pre-game program on Saturday, May 14

- ◆ LOCATION: Comerica Park, Detroit, Mich.
- ◆ PROGRAM TIME: 12:30 PM
- ◆ GAME TIME: 4:05 PM
- ◆ OPPONENT: Kansas City Royals
- ◆ COST: \$27.00 per person Includes \$5.00 food coupon, souvenirs, baseball clinic on field, program and ticket to the game. (Children under 4 years are free if sitting on a lap.)
- ◆ TICKETS were pre-paid and car pools will be arranged. See Gary or Gloria Cynowa for information



FREE MUSEUM PASS

Use your library card to check out free passes for your family to a great museum this summer. See the display rack in your local library.



BEST WISHTERS

May Birthdays

- May 5 Brooklyn Chadwick
- May 6 Jean Plonkey
- May 10 Alex Kammerer
- May 12 Grant Zech
- May 15 Brian Scott
Denise Tilly
- May 16 Brittney Farnsworth
Wally VanVyve
- May 19 Steve Harcourt
Loraine Remesz
- May 27 Lee Brown
- May 31 Dorothy Kammerer

May Anniversaries

- May 11 Jeff and Connie Fuller

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

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT VOLUNTEERS

Head Usher — Gloria Cynowa

Elder of Month —

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Ushers	Steve & Mary Jane Harcourt		Don & Jeanne Steckman	Ed & Gay Rapin	Dave & Margaret Neebes
Greeters	Gloria Cynowa	Sandi Haapala			
Coffee Hour	Connie & Jeff Fuller	Mary Jane Harcourt	Gay & Ed Rapin	Jerri Portlance	Mary Ann Krause & Jeanne Steckman
Cookies	Scottie Sowden & Dorothy Joseph	Gloria Cynowa & Phyllis Haase	Jean Plonkey & Betty Kordas	Jerri Portlance & Betty Kamps	Margaret Neebes
Nursery	Barb Chadwick	Gay Rapin	Sara Byks	Mackenzie Alm	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

THE ARK – THE STORY

In the ARK we are keeping right up with the congregation in our reading of “The Story”. We are doing fun activities and collecting trading cards for each chapter. Nick and Cooper are reading right along with us and you never know what they will have to say about the lesson. Make sure to join us each Sunday for all the fun!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Although it was cool and the ground was a bit mushy we were still able to have our traditional Easter egg hunt on the church lawn. Children young and old enjoyed finding eggs filled with candy, treats and other special surprises. Hopefully some of you also found those empty eggs – hold on to that new life inside! A special thanks to Andrew and Sara Byks for hiding the eggs for us as well as all the parishioners who filled eggs and donated the for this event.

YOUTH

A special thank you to the youth of Church of the Covenant! You do such a wonderful; job serving in the nursery, helping in the ARK and running the power point presentation during our church service. Thank you for all you do!

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 grand-kids, 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 annual Crop Hunger Walk was on May 1 in Mt. Clemens. Several members of our church participated. There was a 5 mile and a 1 mile walk and the route started and ended at Zion Church. Thank you to everyone who walked or who donated to a walker. Last year our walkers raised more than \$900 for Church World Service and the Deacon's Pantry received over \$400 from Crop Walk.

The Outreach Committee will not be collecting funds to give an end of year gift for Head Start. We encourage people to donate to the Deacon's food pantry. We will be filling back packs for the Head Start class in the Fall.

COMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Women's Group met on the third Saturday of April at The Pantry Restaurant for breakfast. The next meeting will be on June 18. Please come and bring a friend.

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; see Phyllis Haase if you have questions.

EUCHRE NIGHT

Euchre Club will meet on May 28 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.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Please come to a Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, May 20 at 6:00 pm at the church. There will be a speaker. No charge, but donations will be accepted

CANCER SOCIETY BIKE RIDE

- ◇ I am excited to announce that I am participating in the American Cancer Society Pan Ohio Hope Ride on July 28-31. This event will raise money in support of the American Cancer Society's mission to save lives from cancer.
 - ◇ We have all been touched by cancer in the past either through a loved one or personal experience. This is an opportunity to aid in researching cures, saving lives and helping create more birthdays.
 - ◇ Please visit my personal page to learn more about my participation in this event and to make a secure, online donation. All contributions are tax deductible and will support the American Cancer Society's efforts. To donate online, visit my personal fundraising page: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/CommunityFundraisingPages/HOSNational?px=18769945&pg=personal&fr_id=33632
 - ◇ Every bit helps, so thank you in advance for any support you can provide. Please forward this email to your friends and family on my behalf to encourage them to visit my personal site to support the fight against cancer. Together, we can win the fight against cancer!
- Sincerely, Paul Pokrzywinski



MAY 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship & Communion CROP WALK 2 pm	2 7pm AA Meeting	3 7 pm Meetings: Adm., Building and Grounds, Outreach, Worship & Deacons	4 Bible Study 10 am at Huff's Bible Study 7 pm at Huff's	5 7 pm Praise Team at Huff's	6	7
8 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	9 7pm AA Meeting	10 11-2 Senior Cards Session meeting 7 pm	11 Bible Study 10 am at Huff's Bible Study 7 pm at Huff's	12 7 pm Praise Team at Huff's	13	14 Home Plate Baseball Meet at Church 11 am
15 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	16 7pm AA Meeting	17	18 Bible Study 10 am at Huff's Bible Study 7 pm at Huff's	19 7 pm Praise Team at Huff's	20 Free Spaghetti Dinner & Speaker 6 pm	21
22 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	23 7pm AA Meeting	24 11-2 Senior Cards	25 Bible Study 10 am at Huff's Bible Study 7 pm at Huff's	26 7 pm Praise Team at Huff's	27	28 Euchre 5:30 pm
28 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	30 7pm AA Meeting	31				

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Armed Forces Members, including: Mark Alm & Trevor Brown
 Joanne Bates
 Phyllis Lloyd Downs
 Marge Fuller & the Fuller Family
 Veronica Guruk
 Ruth McGraw
 Margaret Neebes
 Barbara O'Mara's sons & grandson
 Peace in the World
 Pastor Huff
 Ron Minor
 Melissa Putt
 Betty Radcliffe
 Conner Smith
 Jason & Julie Taylor and newborn twin sons



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

Presbyterian Women support 3 Projects in 2011 with the birthday offering:

ACROSS SUDAN — Jonglei, South Sudan

Founded in 1972, Across (www.across-sudan.org) works to improve the lives of Sudanese people by strengthening communities and promoting education. This Birthday Offering grant will help Across fund a four-pronged approach to education:

- producing 2,500 books;
- sponsoring an English language course for at least five women;
- providing teacher training workshops for at least 40 teachers; and
- building a dormitory at Yei Teacher Training College that will house at least 60 women.

In addition to the educational benefits of these projects, this initiative also will help build a culture of peaceful coexistence between traditionally warring ethnic groups, increase societal value of children (especially girls) and acceptance of women as leaders.

MENAU SCHOOL — Bringing the World to Menaul, Albuquerque, New Mexico

For more than 100 years, Menaul School (www.menaulschool.com) has educated and equipped students for leadership in the church and larger society. The campus welcomes a racially and economically diverse student body, offering day school for grades 6–12 and boarding school for grades 9–12. Financial limitations necessitated the closing of the boarding program in 2000, but with the help of a Birthday Offering grant, Menaul will reestablish its residential program. With your generosity, the existing dormitory will be refurbished to provide housing for approximately 20 students. Menaul also will purchase an activities van to provide transportation for its boarding students' weekend and enrichment activities.

ANDERSON INTERFAITH MINISTRIES — Women and Children (WACS) Program, Anderson, S. C.

Anderson Interfaith Ministries (www.aimcharity.org) is an interfaith organization that provides assistance to people in need while also guiding them to function independently. One of Anderson's most innovative and successful programs, Women and Children Succeeding (WACS), offers various supports to parents so they can return to school. A grant from the Birthday Offering will allow Anderson Interfaith Ministries to strengthen WACS. Funds will provide for:

- modifying and renovating two WACS facilities, centralizing staff and adding training capacity;
- adding a parental education component;
- purchasing land for much-needed parking; and
- hiring an asset-building coordinator, who will help clients with financial literacy.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Situation Report — Southern United States spring storms

Multiple natural disasters have struck the United States over the past few months. Disasters that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been responding to or monitoring include flooding in North Carolina, Tennessee and the Upper Midwest; tornadoes in Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Virginia and Wisconsin; and wildfires in west Texas.

Over the April 14-16 Palm Sunday weekend, a massive storm system spawning more than 220 tornadoes rolled through ten southern states, leaving at least 45 people dead. Virginia and North Carolina have sustained the most severe damage and the most deaths resulting from the storms, with 21 people confirmed dead and countless families displaced.

Response

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been in touch with the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and New Hope Presbytery in North Carolina and the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia to offer One Great Hour of Sharing funds. National Response Team (NRT) members have been invited and deployed to New Hope Presbytery. Additional NRT members will be arriving this week and next to provide spiritual care and to help assess damages and needs in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.

What you can do – You can help the church in this response and stand in the GAP for those affected by this disaster.

- * **GIVE.** The generous sharing of your financial blessings through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and special designated giving provides resources needed to assist with immediate emergency needs, long-term and unmet needs, and spiritual/emotional counseling. Individuals may give by phone at (800) 872-3283, through your congregation, or by mailing a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Please include DR000148 on your check to support relief efforts wherever disasters occur, or DR000015 to support response to recent storms and other disasters in the United States. You may also give online at www.pcusa.org/pda. Congregations should send donations through their normal mission giving channels.
- * **ACT.** CLEAN UP BUCKETS are needed. Please consider assembling buckets to assist our neighbors as they clean up from storms and other disasters in the United States. The Maryland location especially needs the buckets at this time, and for those who live in the northeast, there are additional drop-off locations in the states of CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, and VA.
- * **PRAY.** Please pray for those displaced by the storms, those who lost loved ones, and those who will work to offer spiritual and emotional care or help with restoration efforts. Pray that the light of God's love and the power of hope that is found in Christ will be evident.