

FEBRUARY 2012

Volume 19 Issue 1

# THE COVENANT CONNECTION

## Horizons

When I first came to Church of the Covenant, my desk faced a wall. It stayed like that for a couple of years until I couldn't handle staring at it any more. I then turned my desk around. Now the window in my office is very narrow, but I have a perfect outlook on our neighbor's barn. It sure is nice to see sunlight during the day and the occasional airplane pass by. I'm happy to have a view...I've definitely worked at a few places where I didn't!

Yet it would be foolish if I were to think that I had a total landscape in front of me. There's so much I can't see from my vantage point. I can't see our neighbor's house nor our street. I can't see our friends at Bethel Church of the Nazarene. I can't see the folks practicing for the driving tests held in our parking lot. I have to get up from my desk and walk around, sometimes heading outside, to get a true picture of the church and our neighborhood.

When Paul is speaking about how we know God, he says much the same thing. In 1 Corinthians 13:12, Paul writes, "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." Paul realized that his vision wasn't 20/20. There are plenty of things about God we simply don't know; we don't have the perspective to comprehend them. Our horizon just isn't big enough to fully contemplate the wonders of God. One day we will get the big picture; for now, we have to be contented with what God has shown us of Himself.

But rather than being discouraged by this, I'm encouraged. That's because it means that when things don't look perfectly rosy and paths seem dimly lit in front of us, we don't have the full panorama either. It would be altogether too easy to look at our economy or our church's finances or the problems in Michigan and say, "I can't see a way forward." But God has far greater vision than we do. It's His vision that led Him to bring His people out of Egypt into the promised land. It's His vision that gave us salvation through Jesus Christ. And it's His vision that will see us through to new life and resurrection at the last day.

So in the meantime, I'm working to broaden my outlook by looking for places Jesus is working in our midst. I see Him as we see folks come through our pantry – now even more as our neighboring Full Gospel Mission has had to close its food ministry for now. I see Him in the crowds that come for our Free Meal and a Movie night. I see Him at work in our adult Bible study and in our Young Women's small group. I see joy in worship and His light in the many faces coming on Sunday mornings. He's here when card groups and AA meet. God is making Himself known all around us!

My friends, have you had a spiritual vision check lately? If not, I encourage you to look around and get involved – for God is not only working, but He wants to embrace you and show you your place in His grand vision of salvation!

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Jason



## Meal and a Movie Night

Once again on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., the Covenant Outreach Team is sponsoring a Community Meal and a Movie Night at our church free of charge. We encourage church members to join in the fun by preparing a side dish or dessert to share with our visiting neighbors in the area.

In addition to the free meal and the opportunity to see a recently released family film, we also provide a free box of food to each family in need from our pantry if requested. Please sign up in the narthex or let Gary Cynowa know you are coming.



## Home Plate 2012

Church of the Covenant has an opportunity to join other church groups at Comerica Park for a Tigers vs. Rangers baseball game on Saturday, April 21 for a day of baseball fun and hearing the testimonies of baseball players and coaches who witness to the power of Jesus Christ in their lives.

Tickets for the game are just \$27.00 and include your reserved game seat, a coupon for food concessions, souvenirs, a free baseball clinic on the field, and the program with player testimonies. The program begins at 9:30 a.m., and we would plan to carpool from the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. We must have commitments to participate and the \$27.00 ticket money in hand by Sunday, April 1 to complete our order. Please see Gloria or Gary Cynowa for the Home Plate 2012 information packet if you are interested in participating with friends and members from our church for an inspiring and fun event.

## March 4<sup>th</sup> Meal for the Homeless

The Covenant Deacons and Outreach Team are jointly co-hosting a meal for the homeless on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 12-3:00 p.m. at Zion United Church in Mt. Clemens on Market Street.

This is part of an ongoing program to address hunger issues in Macomb County, and we need volunteers to help prepare and serve the meal at United Church in Mt. Clemens on Market Street.

If interested please sign up in the narthex, or hook up with Gary or Gloria Cynowa.

## COVENANT FOOD PANTRY

Please remember to bring canned or boxed food for our emergency food pantry. Suggested items to purchase are frozen meats, soup, peanut butter & jelly, cereal, spaghetti and 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, the money helps to restock the food pantry. We are able to give people enough food for a few days and then refer them to the Hope Center Pantry.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All high school and college age women are welcome to study at the Huff Home on Thursday evenings at 8:30. Catha is leading this group and we are studying Max Lucado's book *Traveling Light*. Feel free to come and join us as we dive into the Word and grow together.



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The evening Bible study is meeting on Wednesday at 7:00pm at the church. We are using a video discussion series on HOPE. Please come, make new friends, and study the Bible together.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

THE ARK — We are looking forward to fun-filled adventures in the ARK and more great conversations with Nick and Cooper. Join us every Sunday because you don't want to miss a minute of fun!

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 children at Church of the Covenant.



### SHOW ME JESUS

The children's Sunday morning program is called "Show Me Jesus" and it will concentrate on families. As the children begin to develop relationships outside the family circle, home becomes a core/foundation of their life and a way to teach them about what it mean to be a part of God's wider family. They will be challenged to trust and obey the loving heavenly Father who has called them to belong to His family and has revealed who He is through His Word.

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

According to the Presbyterian Book of Order\*, all persons who believe in God and desire to become part of the fellowship and ministry of His church are welcome as members.

Church members are entitled to vote in congregational meetings and have family members baptized, confirmed, married or have their relative's funerals conducted in the church. Members may be nominated for leadership positions such as Elder or Deacon.

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission and to be involved in the ministry of the church.

(\*2011-2013 Book of Order, G-1.03 thru G-1.0304)

A new membership class will start soon. Please consider joining Church of the Covenant, either by a transfer of membership from another Presbyterian Church or by professing your faith. Speak to Pastor Jason if you are interested.

## WORLD MISSION NEWS

Risky journey — Presbyterian mission co-worker Doug Tilton stands with African partner church in time of need

[Presbyterian mission co-worker Doug Tilton](#) didn't know what to expect when he arrived in Antananarivo, [Madagascar](#), in June 2009.

Tilton would be attending a national meeting of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar just three months after a military-backed coup had sent the country into chaos. Security forces from the new government had arrested and beaten pastors and other church leaders. As a result, many pastors went into hiding and one church official left the country temporarily. Some remained in hiding the day Tilton arrived, and the tension was still thick.

As the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s regional liaison for Southern Africa, Tilton goes to many church meetings. In this case, his hosts thought his attendance would be particularly beneficial. They surmised that his presence would make it less likely that church leaders would be arrested or harmed.

The meeting was held without incident, but Madagascar's political and economic crises still persist. Human rights violations also continue, and in response the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, known by its Malagasy acronym FJKM, is pushing for a return to democracy. Presbyterians in the United States, including the Madagascar Mission Network, are supporting the FJKM.

The FJKM is heavily involved in community and economic development, agricultural work, environmental reclamation, and health ministries and also pursues a vigorous program of evangelism and church planting. Over the past decade, it has planted more than 500 congregations, averaging approximately one new church start each week.

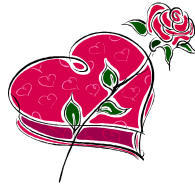
The FJKM is assisted by PC(USA) mission co-workers Dan Turk, a forester and agronomist, and his wife, Elizabeth, a nurse and public health specialist. Mission co-worker Jan Heckler, who has recently been appointed to Madagascar, will assist with long-range planning, assessment and resource allocation.

The FJKM is one of nine partner churches with which Tilton works. Based in South Africa, he also supports the ministries of other mission co-workers and helps build partnerships between African Christians and Presbyterians in the United States.

"I am filled with wonder at the creativity and diversity of God's creation and at God's perpetual capacity to do new things in the lives of God's people," Tilton says.

## February Birthdays

Feb. 7        Barbara Chadwick  
 Feb. 16      Lydie Kepseu  
                  June Dickenson  
 Feb. 18      Jackson Huff  
 Feb. 20      Betty Kamps  
 Feb. 23      Phyllis Haase



## February Anniversaries

Feb 2         Curt & Vicky Reynolds  
 Feb. 11       Ed and Gay Rapin

If we have missed your anniversary or birthday or you are uncertain if we have yours on our list for future months, please let Session Clerk Gloria Cynowa or one of your COTC Deacons know. We want to celebrate your special day with good news by sending you a card of joy.

## 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.

### MEAL & A MOVIE

Please save Friday, Feb. 17 for the monthly Meal & a Movie event. Come and enjoy a meal together at 6 pm, then stay for a family friendly new release movie at 6:45. Tell Gary if you can bring a dish to share.

### WOMEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of the Women's Breakfast Fellowship will be at 9:27 am on February 18 at the home of Gloria Cynowa in Macomb Township. Please sign up at church or call 586-949-3969 for directions and reservations.

### EUCHRE NIGHT

The next Euchre Night is on Saturday, February 25 at the church. Registration begins at 5:30 and play starts at 6:00 pm. Please be on time. *AA 7pm*

A basic knowledge of Euchre is needed. Refreshments

## CHURCH OF THE COVENANT VOLUNTEERS

*Head Usher — Gloria Cynowa*

*Elder of Month —*

	<i>Feb. 5</i>	<i>Feb. 12</i>	<i>Feb. 19</i>	<i>Feb. 26</i>
<b>Ushers</b>	Heacock Family			
<b>Greeters</b>				
<b>Scripture Reader</b>				
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Phyllis Haase	Catha Huff	Gay Rapin & June Dickenson	Maryann Powell
<b>Cookies</b>	Denise Tilly & Mary Lechniak	Diana Byks & Catha Huff	Gay Rapin & June dickenson	Men's Group Ed R & Ed P
<b>Nursery</b>	Natalie Heacock	Gay Rapin	Sara Byks	Barbara Chadwick- ChaEd R & Ed

# February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Bible Study 7 pm</i>	2 <i>Music 7 pm</i>	3	4
5 <i>Music 9 am Worship 10 am Communion</i>	6 <i>AA 7pm</i>	7 <i>Deacons, Outreach, Worship 7 pm</i>	8 <i>Bible Study 7 pm</i>	9 <i>Music 7 pm</i>	10	11
12 <i>Music 9 am Worship 10 am</i>	13 <i>AA 7pm</i>	14 <i>Senior Cards 11-1 Session 7 pm</i>	15 <i>Bible Study 7 pm</i>	16 <i>Music 7 pm</i>	17 <i>Meal &amp; Movie 6 pm</i>	18 <i>Women's Group Breakfast 9:27 am</i>
19 <i>Music 9 am Worship 10 am</i>	20 <i>AA 7pm</i>	21	22 <i>Ash Wed. Serv. 7 pm</i>	23 <i>Music 7 pm</i>	24	25 <i>Euchre 5:30 pm</i>
26 <i>Music 9 am Worship 10 am</i>	27 <i>AA 7pm</i>	28 <i>Senior Cards 11-1</i>	29 <i>Bible Study 7 pm</i>			

## Church of the Covenant

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

Pastor Jason Huff

Contemporary Worship — Sunday 10 a.m. *Come and Praise the Lord*

*Sunday Morning Classes for Children Coffee Hour after Service*

### PRAYER CONCERNS:

Armed Forces Members including: Mark Alm,  
Cory Cynowa & Nikkila Scott

Ruth McGraw

Margaret Neebes

Peace in the World

Melissa Putt

Betty Ratcliff

### Heading To The Hospital?

Some congregation members remember when a pastor, Elder or Deacon would show up at the hospital to visit and pray with you. They didn't have a hotline to God, though! In the past it was standard practice for doctors and hospitals to call pastoral staff before scheduled surgeries or in emergency situations. However, due to modern privacy laws, your doctor and hospital will **not** notify the church. Pastor Jason and the elders would be happy to go with you or visit with you at the hospital.

If you would like a visit — at your home or in the hospital — please call the church office at 948-2440 or email us at [pastorjasonhuff@aol.com](mailto:pastorjasonhuff@aol.com). It is a blessing to stand with you in prayer in both joyous and difficult times...so please let us know how we can be in prayer with you!