



Covenant News

November, 2011



Reflections

It has been a special fall season. When Jason Callahan preached his "homecoming" sermon, I made a few remarks by way of introduction that a number of you have asked be repeated for the record. It is often said in church terms that we do not see our true character as a congregation until we see our grandchildren: those in ministry as a result of a congregation's effort and those who will in turn preach the Good News to generations long beyond our influence. Jason is just such a person.

In this year of the fiftieth anniversary of the "freedom riders," it seems appropriate that the Church of the Covenant's history comes full circle. Sixty-one years ago Cleveland was a far different place. Covenant and The Reverend Harry Taylor had to make a critical decision. The battle for civil rights was heating up from Birmingham, Alabama to Birmingham, Michigan, and the North was in the throes of struggle as much as the South. Dr. Taylor made the decision that while this "church with a conscience" would stand on the side of integration, it would only do so if the Church of the Covenant first integrated herself. She did just that, which in time brought Jason's family into our life blood. So, Jason is both the product of this congregation and Harry Taylor's historic courage, and is a great example of our contribution to the future of this and other churches. He is our grandchild of faith!

On Worldwide Communion Sunday we again saw the heart of this great church with forty mission partners represented. It is who we are, a place in the heart of this community that is open over eighty hours a week in service and care for others. In truth, our mission budget, counting custodial hours to keep us open all those hours and other costs and contributions, totals over \$250,000 in mission commitment. This is something to be very proud of; however, it also raises several questions.

How will we do mission if we do not have the commitment of all of our members? How will we maintain this magnificent place of care and beauty if we in this generation do not make the same commitments those in the past have made? How will we educate our children, attract new members, reach out to students, and celebrate worship in the wonderful manner for which we are known if we do not step up?

Continued on next page →

All Church Carnival
Saturday, October 29, 5-9 pm
Square Dancing, Food, Scary House
Fun for all ages!

Jonathan Moyer Recital
Saturday, October 29, 4 pm
Church of the Covenant
"Fête de la Musique: Music from France."

Dr. Walter Brueggemann
Sunday, October 30
10 am Preaching in Worship
11:30 am Adult Forum

Sunday Adult Forum
October 23, 30, November 6, 20
Journey to the Common Good
11:30-12:30 pm,

All Saints Sunday
November 6
10 am Remembrance
5 pm Candlelight Vespers

Consecration Sunday
November 13
2nd Sunday Breakfast & Cornerstone

Giving Tree Opportunities
November 20, 27 & December 4

Saturday, November 5
InterAct & UPCaM Fundraisers

Sunday, November 27
Ten Thousand Villages
Holiday Fair Trade Sale

the arts of thanksgiving

AN INTERRELIGIOUS CELEBRATION

Monday, November 21

B'nai Jeshurun Congregation

6-7 pm Interactive Family Event

7-8:30 pm Interreligious Arts Performances

Reception with light refreshments

Carol and I pledge an amount equivalent to about the average in giving by those of you who pledge. In addition I have not taken a salary increment in the six years I have served Covenant and I will not take one this year. This is not because we are rich or paid too much. It is because we believe in the ministry of this church and the need to move it forward. It has been our way of trying to make that happen. I share this with you as way of a challenge. Many give out of sacrifice. Over a hundred don't pledge or give anything. Some of you support many other causes with the church being one of them. Some of you are on fixed incomes while others are just starting out. The bottom line is not how much you give but the priority you are willing to make in your life for the ministry and mission of this church. Carol and I are only passing through. This church and you and people like Jason are here for the long term, and it is up to you the members to see that our future is not only secure but exciting.

We are now on the edge of a bright new day but there are no "promised lands" without great commitment, courage, and a willingness to make sacrifices so that a new and exciting future can happen. Someone once said our personal creed is written in our checkbooks. Not many people write checks anymore so maybe a more accurate guide would be our Visa statements. The challenge of every stewardship time is not to get your hard earned cash, but to help those committed to this congregation and who enjoy the benefits of ministry here understand the needs before us. At the same time, we seek to ensure that careful planning and oversight occur so that the use of those commitments promotes the character, ministry, and mission of this church to which you belong.

I ask you, not on my behalf but on behalf of the future of this church, to carefully and prayerfully look at your family budgets and then, even in these times, on Consecration Sunday make a statement for the future of the church and her long ministry.

Now we move forward. Walter Brueggemann will again be with us after whom we will celebrate a meaningful All Saints Sunday and evening vespers. Then we will approach again the coming of Advent and a very special time here. I'll see you in church.

Love, peace, and great joy,
bert

In the Covenant Family

Individuals we have remembered in prayer in recent weeks include Susan D'Arcy, Leslie Wells Clark, Harry Gore, Hanook Fateh Jang (Sharoon Hanook's father), Marilyn Krotseng, Barbara Thatcher Williams, and others who struggle with illness, or are homebound.

We celebrated with parents Alan and Kate Prince Howard, and grandmother Ann Howard, the birth of Parker Miles Howard in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 20; and with parents Joshua and Chessa Gottron, grandparents Bruce and Nancy Gottron, and great-grandparents Ted and Jane Adams, the birth of Rylynn Louise Gottron, on October 3.

We extended our sympathy to LaShawna Adams Mitchell, Sandra Gordon, and QuJane' Gordon in the death of their grandmother, Nellie Strong, on August 13; to the Acree-Smith family in the death of Richard (Stronger) Smith Jr., who died in Los Angeles, California; to Cheri Keys and her family in the death of her mother, Margaret Tripp, on September 8; and to Mary Archibald and her family in the death of her sister, Margaret Siegenthaler, on September 10 in North Carolina.

Please let the church office know when you have prayer requests.

Consecration Sunday, November 13~Also a time for Stewardship of Memories

Sunday, November 13 is Consecration Sunday. Following our offering of gifts and pledges, and while we anticipate our generosity, we will contemplate our history and our future by contributing to the remembrances for our cornerstone.

We conclude our yearlong celebration of our building's 100th anniversary by placing a "time capsule" in our beloved church's old stone walls. On November 13, visit a writing station: 2nd Sunday Breakfast, or in the library, office area, or activities room during the interlude. **You may want to write out your thoughts and bring them with you or prepare a handwritten or typed piece on an 8.5 by 11 white sheet of paper which we will copy onto archival paper.** Call Laury Larson if you need a scribe.

Give our members in 2111 a chance to learn more about the legacy they have inherited!

What do you think they should know?

Why are you here? What does Covenant mean to you? What does it feel like to come here? What do you hope for the Covenant in the future—the community, not just the building? What aspect of the church's ministry and mission are important to you? Are there particular people in the congregation that you admire? Why?

Special Gifts Committee looks over recently updated Legacy Plaque



Chris Langmack, Martha Goble, Venerine Branham, and Peter Shriver stand before the Legacy Plaque which their committee recently updated. Twenty-four new individuals or couples have been added to the plaque after indicating to the committee that they are remembering Church of the Covenant in their wills. These people are now part of the tradition of Covenant members providing for the future of their church. The plaque is located in the corridor outside the sanctuary as you walk toward the reception room.

The committee welcomes anyone who may be interested in making this commitment to contact any member of the committee.

So What Is “Per Capita” ?

Several persons have asked from varied points of view about the per capita fee to the church. So here is my best answer: it is the cost of doing business with the denomination. The Church of the Covenant sees none of it. It is a tax on every member on the rolls for the purpose of administration within the higher governing bodies, which means this is money we cannot use for program or mission. In 2011 it was \$23 per member; for the coming year it is \$24 per member. And members who are no longer in attendance for many reasons (youth away at college, married but haven't joined another church, etc.) are included. That is why we ask every member to contribute the cost of this tax.

If you are a person who pledges, you have one of two choices: first, you may pay the tax in addition to your pledged amount. This guarantees that all of your pledge commitment goes to the ministry and mission decided by the Session of the Church of the Covenant. If, on the other hand, you would like the per capita deducted from your annual pledge, that is quite all right as well. It simply means if you pledge \$100 to the church for two members of your family, only \$52 will go to the ministry of the church. This is not a way for the church to get extra money! It is a way for us to cover necessary costs and still continue ministry that is within our control.

The most important point is that if you choose to pledge nothing and do not cover the cost of the per capita, then the rest of the membership will need to support your place on the rolls. Of course, this is not a concern for those long serving members and those who give extensively of their time and talent, but at this point in their life find it difficult to cover this cost. That is why we are a church and it is the responsibility of all to support the whole. Please call the office if you have any questions about per capita.

Thank you to the following people whose names have been added to the Plaque:

Robert and Karen Ault
John Mackintosh Bourne
Ellen Cherry
Anne Wombwell deConingh
Martha and Robert Goble
Sonia Golden
Elizabeth Holbein
Ronald & Patricia O'Donnell James
Paul R. Keen & Denise Horstman
David Keltner
Phyllis Koons
Laury W. Larson
John and Sybil Marsh
Mildred Russin
Jean Sacatsh
Emmett Saunders
Ruth Shane
Carrie Stewart
Frank J. Svoboda
Jim and Lyn Cooper Tomaszewski
Daniel and Kristine Urban
Harriet Wadsworth
Barbara Hall Thatcher Williams
James D. Williamson

March 27, 2011

How About Those Cushions?

Some of you are truly appreciative of them and others have expressed appreciation for the pews without cushions as well as the acoustics. One member is thankful that her feet now can touch the floor. The plan seems to be working. Cushions are now available in the front of the sanctuary when you enter by way of the hall and others in Christ Chapel, with the majority of them available in the rear of the sanctuary. Just ask an usher if you would like one. And again a big thank you to Cathy Miller for having them made.

One need: The Memorial Fund is in need of replenishment for the cost of the cushions, so if you are interested in making a donation, please do so.

From our Newest Members

On September 28, Session welcomed four new members into the life of the Covenant. Each was asked two questions: *What is Church of the Covenant doing well that brought you to request membership in the church and what do you expect from Church of the Covenant as a member?* Here are excerpts of their responses.

Helen Burdg

I will not receive unless I am willing to give of myself and be aware of what is available to me. I look forward to Sunday services with the beautiful music, prayers, sermons and fellowship. I shall find guidance, faith, hope, compassion. Hopefully, I will find a niche at the Covenant for me, be it just a smile or a friendly handshake. Each morning and many times a day I look out my apartment window at Judson Manor at the Covenant tower that has now beckoned me home. I have come full circle as I see part of the Garfield Monument at Lake View Cemetery, my final resting place. I have found peace.



Helen Burdg (center) visits with Ann Williams and Jim Tomaszewski at Covenant's exhibit at UCI's ShowCase in the Circle in September.



Sharoon Hanook with Beth Holbein volunteering at Covenant's monthly meal at Abington Arms.

Sharoon Hanook

When I came to campus, I tried other churches, but I kept coming back to Covenant. Eileen made me welcome. Then I met others. The student group grew a lot, and the church was so friendly, I decided to become a member. I want the student group to grow so we can welcome others who come to the Covenant.

Frank Svoboda

I first came to know the Church of the Covenant when I attended a Tenebrae service with my friend, Mildred Russin, three years ago. I then attended a Sunday service and appreciated the music and sermons. I have been able to participate in the recent celebrations and like the fact that the Covenant is such a vibrant, active community of faith.

Matthew Garrett

My expectations for Church of the Covenant align with what I feel the church is currently doing well. Music is extremely important to me within the context of worship. Jonathan does a wonderful job of combining artistic integrity with heartfelt spirituality. I am thrilled to have him as a colleague and honored to have him as a friend. The collaboration we have been able to forge between the church and CWRU has been rewarding to so many students, church members, and the University Circle community.



Gay and Christian are not often terms that we hear mentioned together. However, these are both characteristics that I use to describe myself and I am very comfortable with both. Michael and I have always felt comfortable at Church of the Covenant, even before we were announced as a couple to the membership in the 2009 Annual Report! The church's commitment to loving all members of the community is a living example of Christ's ministry. Through strong leadership, the church continues to be a beacon for inclusion and diversity, both in Cleveland and around the country.

Music was what initially drew Michael and me to Church of the Covenant and music continues to be a spiritual mainstay for both of us. However, the way that you, the current members of the church, have welcomed and celebrated who we are and what we have to offer is what has brought me to the decision to become a member of this inclusive congregation. And for that, I thank you.

Deacons Host Annual Giving Tree Celebration December 11

Goodrich-Gannett Neighborhood Center, Family Promise of Greater Cleveland
and Daniel E. Morgan School

Select your gift tags from the 3 trees in the Reception Room on November 20, 27 and December 4.

Gift tags will be available on the three Christmas trees in the reception room **Sunday, November 20, 27 and December 4.** Goodrich-Gannett gift tags will list the name of the recipient and an item on their "wish list." You may also sign up to bring toys for Family Promise and Daniel E. Morgan. Take as many gift tags as you desire! A Deacon will be in the reception room before and after each Sunday service to assist you. Gifts are to be brought to the church dining room on Sunday, December 11, for the Giving Tree Celebration, an occasion many of us look forward to each year. The Deacons hope you will join in this festive tradition!



Goodrich-Gannett Neighborhood Center

1368 East 55 Street

ggnc.org

The center provides services to children, youth, adults, families and seniors through comprehensive neighborhood-based services. Our ties with Goodrich-Gannett stem from support of their shut-ins and the seniors who visit the center for the meal program. Through our Giving Tree program, we provide perhaps the only Christmas gift these people will receive. Last year we provided 130 gifts through our outreach program. We hope for your generous participation in this year's Giving Tree program, as well!



Daniel E. Morgan School

8912 Morris Court

cmsdnet.net

Since 1997, Covenant has had a strong partnership with Daniel E. Morgan. Plans are underway for Daniel E. Morgan's *Operation Snowflake*, which provides a gift for every child. This year we will be giving gifts to 40 first graders (20 boys and 20 girls). We need unwrapped African-American dolls, toy cars or trucks, and smaller size footballs and basketballs.



You can join Bob and Karen Ault, Carol Clint, Kathy Holmgren, and Pat Owen-Keltner in tutoring first-graders in reading, Wednesdays, 2:10-3:30 pm. Contact Bob Ault.



Family Promise of Greater Cleveland

3470 East 152 Street

FamilyPromiseCle.org

New Life Community merged with Interfaith Hospitality Network in May to form Family Promise of Greater Cleveland, making it the largest local organization focused exclusively on assisting homeless families to transform their lives and achieve long-term housing and job stability. The new organizational structure allows them to offer critical new programming, including home-based case management for families who have graduated and are living on their own. Family Promise is collecting holiday gifts that help families provide a wonderful holiday by using the donated items to set up a "holiday store" where families can select gifts for their children at no charge, and helping them stay within the budgets that they have worked hard to develop and maintain.

Covenant provides a meal the third Tuesday of each month, and members create Mother's and Father's day baskets. Contact Joy Kent to get involved.

**Giving
Tree
11 am
Sunday
December 11
Dining Room
Carol Singing
Covenant Giving Tree
Choir & Instrumentalists
Gifts under the Tree
Tasty
Treats**

Join in this festive tradition!

Children, Youth, and Families

Two Holiday Fundraisers Sponsored by Covenant Youth

Covenant youth have two holiday fundraisers to help them raise funds for their annual mission trip. Order forms will be available in November.

Holiday Greens & Flowers
Poinsettias, wreaths, greens and flowers just in time for the holidays.
Pick Up: Saturday & Sunday
December 3 & 4

Fair Trade Gift Bags
Fair Trade gift bags filled with gourmet coffee, organic teas, cocoa and chocolates, to support small farmers in Latin America, Asia and Africa.
Pick Up: Saturday & Sunday
December 11 & 12

The youth will also volunteer their time to help the staff at IRTF (InterReligious Task Force on Central America - a Covenant mission partner) prepare the gift bags.

Busy Covenant Youth!!

Covenant youth are busy juggling their weekly school activities like high school band, cross country, track, football, orchestra, and theater, as well as their church commitments such as confirmation class, fall carnival, planning mission projects, and, new this year, monthly *Converge* youth worship services with several other churches.

Interested in joining them as volunteers or chaperones or even as a "youth groupie" who would like to attend

Covenant Youth On Stage!!

We have such talented youth here at the Covenant who are currently preparing to perform in their high school and church productions. Four Covenant Youth have lead rolls in upcoming play productions and one youth is in the orchestra!

- ⇒ CJ Langmack (senior at Mayfield Heights High) and his brother Kyle (a sixth grader) are performing in *The Pirates of Penzance* at the Mayfield Church in Chesterland.
- ⇒ Midori Marsh will be playing Maria in *The Sound of Music* at Cleveland Heights High School. Gretchen Drushel will be in the orchestra.
- ⇒ Collin Denbow will be playing Tom Sawyer in *Big River* at Benedictine High School.

We wish them a great performance!

Covenant on Campus

She Knows Her Beans!!! And a whole lot more!

Meet Mutsa Monica Takundwa. Her ready smile and positive attitude captivated us from her first visit, and has graced us each week since. Mutsa is a native of Zimbabwe, here on a three-month exchange, to teach and study lab techniques with Dr. Chris Cullis, Chair of the Biology Department at Case Western Reserve University. But ever since college, she has lived in Namibia. There, the maramba bean, high in protein and oil, is harvested in the wild, but that practice destroys parent plants and ground cover. On fellowship from the Kirkhouse Trust which funds legume research, she labors to develop a species for agriculture and commerce that would protect the environment and feed more people using molecular biology aided selection for breeding.

Mutsa is no stranger to struggle. After their father fell ill and their mother died, she and three siblings were raised by two aunts, a teacher and a nurse, who sponsored her education. "We found refuge in God," she recalls. "And in God's love, my aunts found the strength to sustain us."

Mutsa found Covenant while searching for a church and walking from Cutler House to her lab. She signed in with Eileen her first Sunday, saw the Welcome Bash in the student email, and found a church home. "People are so friendly here. I have found a family and a place to hear God's word." What does she ask of us. "Just that, she replies, "and prayer." Put her on your prayer list. Another life that will feed the world.



Mind, Body, Spirit

Women's Bible Study
First Wednesdays, 10 am
Confessing the Beatitudes
All are welcome!

**University Circle
Bible Study**
Tuesdays, 12-1 pm
Covenant Library
Study the scripture for
the coming Sunday.

Healing Circle
First Sundays, 12:30 pm
Talk with Rev. Jonyrma Singleton
or Ed Laylin.

UPCaM Weekly Worship
Wednesdays, 8:15-9:00 pm
Interfaith Chapel
Open to all; refreshments follow.

Service of Caring
Wednesdays, Christ Chapel
4:15 pm Music 4:30-5 pm Service
*A time of quiet
meditation & reflection.*

All Saints Sunday November 6

Remembrance in Worship

We celebrate *All Saints Sunday* on November 6. This is the Sunday when we especially remember those who have died since last year, including the reading of their names.

As part of this service, you are invited to bring a small memento of remembrance to place on the table in *All Saint's Chapel* prior to worship. If you do not have a picture or memento, you can even bring a small stone to bring to mind a loved one.

All Saints Candlelight Vespers Sunday, November 6 5 pm

*Experience the
beauty of worship
in the candlelight glow
of the evening.*

The Covenant choir and organ present Morten Lauridsen's poignant *Lux Aeterna* with scripture readings and prayers.



The Covenant Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 18, 10 am An event for the entire family!

Rehearsal schedule:

Saturday, December 3 & 10, 12:30 lunch, 1-2 pm

Saturday, December 17, 12:30 lunch, 1-3 pm



Can You Provide a Turkey Breast for our November Abington Arms Meal?

Covenant, in partnership with Park Synagogue and InterAct Cleveland, provides a meal at Abington Arms each month. We are preparing turkey breasts for the main course on Wednesday, November 16.

*Can you donate a turkey breast for our
"Thanksgiving" dinner project?*

Please bring turkey breasts to the church on Sunday, November 13, so they may be cooked Wednesday. If you are able to help, please call or e-mail one of the committee members or sign up in the church office..

Thank you!

Joyce Collins, Martha Goble, and Beth Holbein

Thanks again to all of you; the whole building was abuzz with talk of the dinner last night! A special thanks to all of you as... unknowingly to you all, one of the people you served was out of money, out of food, and out of hope for what the future would bring. Thanks to your good food, and hopeful hearts... this person was well fed, and is in much better spirits while we deal with the issues at hand! This is just a sample of the things you bring to the table with this community partnership... Again Thanks!

Sean M. Parker

*Service Coordinator II
Abington Arms Apartments*

The Church of the Covenant

11205 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216-421-0482
CovenantWeb.org

Sunday Worship 10:00 am
Church School 10:15 am

The Rev. Dr. Robert J. Campbell, *Pastor*
The Rev. Laury W. Larson, *Associate Pastor*
The Rev. Jonyrma R. Singleton, *Associate Pastor*
Eileen Vizcaino, M. Div. *Dir. Student-Community Ministries*
Dr. Jonathan W. Moyer, *Organist & Director of Music*
The Rev. James F. Dowd, *Pastor Emeritus*

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cleveland, Ohio
Permit No. 3142

Covenant Cache

Our Wonderful Resale Shop

Tuesdays & Thursdays

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Get ready for winter today!!

Open Sunday, December 4 until 3pm



Mail Date: October 27; Next Deadline: November 3

To correct or remove your name from this mailing, email
Covenant@CovenantWeb.org.

View this and previous *Covenant News* on CovenantWeb.org.

Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter

Send request and items to David Keltner, Victoria Gates or
Lyn Cooper Tomaszewski



Saturday, November 5

7:30– 9:30 pm

**Old Stone Church
91 Public Square**

Tickets start at \$45
(3 levels available)

Join us for a sampling of
hors d'oeuvres and delicious breads
from Cleveland's rich religious,
ethnic and cultural traditions.

We'll have an array
of fantastic raffle prizes.

Call (216) 241-0230 or visit
InteractCleveland.org/sacredbread

A Covenant Mission Partner

To Benefit the ministry of

UPCaM

Bites and Bids:
A different kind of Auction

Saturday, November 5

**Reception,
Hors d'oeuvres & Auction
6–9 pm**

**Alumni House
11310 Juniper Road
at CWRU**

Tickets at \$45

UPCaM.org, 216-299-8391
revdonna@UPCaM.org
(formerly our annual dinner & auction)

A Covenant Mission Partner



**TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES®**

**Fair Trade
Holiday Sale**

**Sunday, November 27
Church of the Covenant
Activities Room**

Immediately following worship

Ten Thousand Villages partners
with over 130 artisan groups in
more than 38 countries in Asia,
Latin America, Africa, and the
Middle East to bring you handmade
jewelry, home décor, gifts and more.
Fair trade enables artisans to earn a
fair wage and provides for the
opportunity for a better
quality of life.

TenThousandVillages.com