



Covenant Matters

Sunday, February 17, 2008

Covenant Presbyterian Church • 3003 Northland Drive • Austin, Texas 78757 • www.covenant.org

During the power outage on Wednesday, February 13, Covenant's e-mail server was damaged. This resulted in the CPC staff having no ability to send or receive e-mail or access stored e-mail messages. This problem should be corrected by the beginning of the work week. Please note that this issue did impact the content of this week's Covenant Matters. Every effort will be made to publish the missing notices next week.

30th Annual CROPwalk

Austin's 30th annual CROPwalk will be on Sunday afternoon, March 2, at Roy Guerrero park. CROPwalk seeks to end world hunger "one step at a time." Last year, CROP walks around the nation shared \$3.6 million with food banks and hunger fighting agencies in the U.S. Covenant's involvement with this event is organized by the Presbyterian women, and they are currently recruiting walkers and donors for the walkers. Anyone who is interested can contact Charlene Cole by phone at 836-3612 or email chcole@flash.net.

SHARE YOUR STORIES PROJECT

Do you have a story to tell about how you became involved in worship, service, study or evangelism? Over the next few months, you will have the opportunity to read in our publications what others have found as opportunities for involvement in the "Worship + 2" and Evangelism Strategic Initiatives adopted by Session. You would be serving others just to share an anecdote about a powerful worship experience or something that stimulated regular weekly worship; or, perhaps a mission experience or an evangelism encounter or opportunity for service. If you would like to share your story (with or without attribution of authorship) or to let us use your experience to write an invitation to someone else to serve, worship or study, you can hand-deliver or mail your ideas to Covenant, attention Strategic Planning Committee, or email to rhondabrinklaw@austin.rr.com or bmendiola@austin.rr.com or contact Rhonda Brink at 454-8400.

CALLS TO TWO 2008 CUBA MINISTRY TRIPS

Reason # 1 you may be called to Cuba:

Go and be unconditionally received with love from the Cubans because we are friends of those who have come before and fellow followers of Jesus Christ.

Several Cuba veterans will join veteran Evangeline Herring in our plans to participate in Luyanó's vacation bible school in July. Passport information must be submitted to Cuban Counsel of Churches by the end of March.

Fifteen Covenant members will participate in Covenant's fifteenth ministry trip to Luyanó on October 27 – November 3. Passport information must be submitted to Cuban Counsel of Churches by the first part of June.

Information and applications for both trips are available on patio between services or by contacting Jack Kern at jackckern@sbcglobal.net.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." ~ Philippians 4:6

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." ~ Colossians 4:2

As Covenant Presbyterian Church continues to experience an exciting period of growth and change, we want to seek God's guidance and will for us, and offer up our prayers of praise and thanksgiving. All members are invited and encouraged to participate in a prayer vigil. This vigil will be held from noon to midnight on Saturday, February 23.

Congregation members are asked to sign up for a 30-minute time slot, during which individuals will call upon God in silent prayer. Prayer guides will be provided. If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact Joy Durrant at joyd@austin.rr.com or 346-7435, or Diane Davis at ddedavis@sbcglobal.net or 328-9879. You can also sign up at the table on the patio on Sundays prior to the vigil.

FEBRUARY VISIONS LUNCHEON

February 19, 2008 in Eaton Hall • 11:45 a.m.

Chuck Welty, Austin authority on popular music, will reveal "My Misspent Youth -- from the Victrola to the Jukebox." At last count he had over 2800 tunes in his collection of music from the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. You may have met him at Senior Net or Quest. Please make reservations at the church office or by calling 454-5231. The cost of the luncheon is \$4, payable at the door.

TONY LAWTON PRESENTS THE GREAT DIVORCE

The Great Divorce, a one-man play adapted from the C.S. Lewis novel, will be presented by Tony Lawton at Covenant on Friday, Feb. 29, and Sat., Mar. 1, at 7:00 p.m. "The Great Divorce" is the story of Clive, a hapless professor, and the motley band of malcontents who join him on a very curious bus ride. Journeying between Hell and Heaven, Clive crosses a surprising, wildly inventive landscape. This amusing and slightly satirical adaptation of *The Great Divorce* is a wondrous ride filled with dazzling insights and language. Tony has performed this one man play around the nation and received much acclaim. This event is free and would be a good place to practice "respectful evangelism" and have a great time, too. Childcare is provided, please call Christy Milam for reservations. Any questions can be asked of Kay Sockol at ksockol@covenant.org.

VISIONS TRIP TO FORT SAM HOUSTON

Join us on Thursday, March 13, for a tour of Fort Sam Houston, the 131-year-old garrison in the mission of San Antonio.. The fort is considered the "Home of Army Medicine."

The tour starts at the Army Medical Department Museum which depicts the history of military medicine with emphasis on battlefield medical service and progress in science and technology. It also includes a display of vehicles used in battlefield evacuation of casualties. Lunch will be on the base at the Sam Houston Club.

Next we'll make a driving tour of the post, visit the Quadrangle - headquarters of the Fifth Army today with its venerable clock tower, and view the homes where Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower, Gen. John Pershing, and Robert E. Lee lived. We will also have a private, conducted tour of the Stillwell House, named for General Joseph W. "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell. Before returning to Austin, we'll drive through the National Cemetery adjacent to the fort.

The tour will leave the church at 8:00 a.m. and return around 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$18 per person, covering transportation and lunch. Admissions are free. Please make checks payable to William Fletcher. You can sign-up on the patio between services today, or call Helen or Bill Fletcher at 280-4124.

YOU MUST BRING A VALID PHOTO I.D. TO ENTER THE BASE!

COVENANT MOM'S GROUP

Monday February 18, 9:30-11:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Kelli Kelly will be presenting about prematurity and how we can support those who have a child who is born prematurely.

Monday March 3, 9:30-11:30 p.m. in Eaton Hall

SWAP Meet: Bring all of your baby/child clothing and paraphernalia that you no longer are using and/or come "shop" for things you need. Extra items will be donated to charity.

Monday, March 3, 11:30 p.m.- 1:00 p.m. in SA 103

Working Moms/Those With Limited Time Lunch Group
The topic will be marriage and how to strengthen and maintain relationships with little ones running underfoot! Please RSVP by the preceding Friday to Cathy Pita (jjcp45@aol.com)

If you would like any additional information about the Mom's Group, please contact Cathy Pita (jjcp45@aol.com) or Thais Kilday (thais.kilday@alumni.utexas.net). Childcare is available by contacting Christy Milam at least 2 business days in advance (cmilam@covenant.org).

DAILY BREAD - HELPING HOMELESS YOUTH

The love of Christ is given to homeless youth by providing a warm, sustaining meal in a church dining room near the UT campus. If you enjoy cooking large quantities of food (for 30-40) OR love to shop at Costco's or Sam's bulk freezer aisle, then this ministry is for you! Cooks choose which Tuesday they cook and how often they cook. If you like meeting new people and have a heart for the homeless then come and serve a meal with us on a Tuesday 4:30-5:30 p.m. Contact: Annette Palmer, (h) 249-5520, (cell) 565-2953 or email aspalmer3@aol.com.

KIMBELL ART MUSEUM TRIP

Covenant is sponsoring a bus trip to the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth Texas on Wednesday, March 26 to see a very nice art collection of sacred images on loan from the Vatican and other prestigious locations. The exhibition is entitled "Picturing the Bible."

We are chartering a large motorcoach and professional driver to take us from the church to the museum and return to the church by supper time. The bus has a restroom onboard. We will depart from the church at 8:00 a.m. and return to the church by 6:00 p.m.

This trip is open to all at Covenant. The cost is approximately \$52. Final costs are being determined. This includes roundtrip bus fare and admission to this special exhibition. You may read about this exhibition at kimbellart.org. Lunch is available in the museum cafeteria at your expense. Checks will be made payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church indicating "March 26 trip."

A sign up sheet is available in the church office. Please contact Kay Austin, a new administrative assistant, at 334-3030 or email kaustin@covenant.org. Or, contact Rick MacArthur at 394-0274 or rmacarthur@covenant.org.

YOUTH MISSION SUNDAY: FOOD DRIVE

Today, the youth will be conducting a food drive in conjunction with Youth Mission Sunday. Grocery bags are being distributed today after each service for you to use for your donations. Please bring your bags of groceries and drop them off on the grassy area to the right of Covenant Hall Sunday morning or anytime that afternoon before 4:00. Someone will be there to help you with your bags if needed. The proceeds will be shared with Manos de Cristo, Meals on Wheels, and the Capital Area Food Bank.

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

In February, the women's circles will begin the second half of their study, *Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth* with Lesson 6 on the first chapter of Ruth. This familiar story of how steadfast love brings life out of death, fullness out of famine, and joy out of bitterness resonates on many levels of our own experiences.

Please note that Lydia is meeting a week later due to Valentine's Day. For more information, contact the co-chairs or Circle Coordinator, Susan Holman at 452-6890 or jaholman@swbell.net.

Thursday, February 21

Lydia meets at 7:00 p.m. at Fran Langfitt's home
8130 Greenslope

Fran Langfitt 231-8503 & Claudette Hulce 440-7540

Monday, February 25

Ruth meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor,
contact Carol Caesar at 418-9820

(Childcare available with reservations through Christy Milam at 334-3020 or cmilam@covenant.org.)

\$10 could save his life along with the lives of 3 of his family members. How? By purchasing a treated mosquito net to protect them from malaria. This disease will kill as many as AIDS this year in Africa, especially among children, pregnant moms and the elderly. Your gift of \$10 will pay for a net that will protect 4 family members. Covenant teams to Senegal and Zambia will work with World Vision to distribute the mosquito nets as part medical outreaches. Our goal is 500 nets. Checks can be placed in the offering plate, or in special boxes in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Allen Weeks at 653-4935.

SENEGAL TRIP COMING IN MARCH!

Covenant will be sending an outreach team to Senegal, West Africa for 10 days in March, where we sponsor 250 children through World Vision. Covenant is in its fourth year of partnership with villages in the Tattaguine region, and we are seeing amazing growth in the churches in this predominantly Muslim country. The team will take part in two medical and evangelistic outreaches, and we are specifically in need of another doctor, nurse, or dentist. This trip fills up quickly, so contact Allen Weeks (aweeks@covenant.org/653-4935) or Noel Durrant (noeld@austin.rr.com/289-3578) as soon as possible if you are interested. Trip dates are March 10-21. The cost is approx. \$3,000.

OUR CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP!

As we watch the hole where Children's Hall used to be get deeper and deeper, we are realizing that our space is becoming tighter and tighter! And as everyone has experienced, PARKING is also tight! With the Preschool and Children's Sunday School located in the portables for the next several months, we need YOUR help to ensure that children and families can navigate the parking lot safely! Here's what you can do:

- Do not create your own parking spot. ONLY park in designated spaces. When spaces are "created," visibility is compromised. You may not see children and the children may not see you!
- Do not park in the handicapped accessible spaces without a handicapped parking permit
- Do not move cones in order to park.

When big changes are happening, it's hard not to be inconvenienced in some way. And while we know that parking is not ideal right now, we must keep our children safe! Thanks for doing your part.

Wednesday Night Dinner Menus

Wednesday, February 20

Oriental Sesame Chicken
Broccoli
Sticky Rice
Vegetable Egg Rolls
Lemon Ice & Fortune Cookies

Wednesday, February 27

Turkey Pot Pie
Seasoned Rice
Tossed Salad
Peanut Butter Chocolate Cake

Wednesday, March 5

Chili with Penne Pasta
Cornbread
Spinach Salad

Wednesday, March 12

Corned Beef
Cabbage
New Potatoes
Dessert

Wednesday, March 26

Pork and Wild Rice Casserole
Dinner Salad
Peach Cobbler

Wednesday, April 2

Chicken Parmesan
Angelhair Pasta
Salad
Eclairs

PARKING POINTS - A GUIDE TO CONVENIENT PARKING AT COVENANT

We want to ensure that every member and guest of Covenant Presbyterian Church has a meaningful worship, educational, fellowship and ministry experience whenever they're on campus. This is especially true on Sunday mornings when attendance is high and parking is sometimes a challenge. This guide is intended to help everyone understand and navigate the three parking options we have at Covenant on Sunday morning. Please DO NOT park on the streets of the Allandale neighborhood.

- ♦ **Park & Shuttle** – Our remote, off-site parking facility located at the UTAIC building, 5508 Parkcrest at Northland Drive, three blocks west of campus. Park in the UTAIC lot or garage and take the 2-minute shuttle ride to Covenant. After church, take the return shuttle to UTAIC. Operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Sundays. Park & Shuttle is available for everyone. An area map reflecting the location of Park & Shuttle and Covenant is available at covenant.org.
- ♦ **Northwest Recreation Center** – Parking available in the two lots immediately adjacent to the campus. Park and take a 2-minute walk to church. Please note: Do not park along the red curb fire lanes; the City occasionally issues parking tickets to violators.
- ♦ **Covenant Campus** – Close-in parking intended for senior adults, newcomers, those with mobility impairments, and families with very young children.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3003 Northland Drive, Austin, Texas 78757
Church Office: 512-454-5231, Fax: 512-454-5358
Hours: M-Th, 8am to 6pm; F, 8am to noon
www.covenant.org

Rick Murray, Senior Pastor
Beth Bishop, Director of Lay Ministry
Thomas W. Brown, Director of Music Ministry
Frederick L. Clement, Director of Administration
James Lee, Associate Pastor for New Church Development
Rick MacArthur, Parish Associate for Older Adult Ministries
Brendan Ross, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
John Schmidt, Organist
Kay Sockol, Director of Discipleship
Chesney Szaniszlo, Parish Associate for Pastoral Ministries
Allen Weeks, Interim Director of Missions
Heather Werle, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Jill Williams, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care Ministries
Robbie Ytterberg, Director of College & Young Adult Ministries
Gayla Zachry, Director of Children's Ministries