

NEW COVENANT NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 2

A monthly ministry of the people of CNCP

February 2006

A Note from the Pastor:

Dear Friends:

Three questions from the Speak Out have remained on my mind.

First: does anyone contact those members who are not in worship? I do keep up with those who are gone for several weeks and check in with them. It is very interesting to note the difference between this church and others I have served. In most churches, if someone is missing 3 Sundays in a row, there is an illness, or an issue at the heart of the absence. Illnesses or issues are known to the membership (and usually passed on to me) very quickly and are addressed. Here the primary reason behind an absence is the ability of members to take extended vacations or because they own a second home elsewhere.

The point of the question was to wonder whether we could get some of our inactive members to return by getting in touch with them. Only by calling them and asking will you find out. So, call, write, visit and be blunt, as I often am, in talking to them about their absence. Ask what it would take for them to return and then pray together about the way to make it happen. If there is an unresolved conflict with another member or staff, encourage the person to address it one on one with the other party. Only by letting each other know about our hurts, can we begin to heal. If coming back is not an option, encourage them to find a church home and bless their journey with your prayers and friendship. If your friend has already found a new church home, tell them what that means to you and celebrate their new call.

Second: what happens to the money that would come from the sale of the church property; and, can the Presbytery choose the location if we initiate a move? If the congregation voted to sell the property, we would then take that proposal, including the use of the funds from the sale, to the

Presbytery. The commissioners to that meeting would vote on our request. Property actions are *not* acted on at the presbytery office by presbytery staff members. In short, if you want to sell and use the money to move, that is what you send to the Presbytery for vote. So the second part of the question comes into play.

According to the Book of Order, the Presbytery (the elected commissioners meeting in a stated or called meeting) does “control the location of new churches and of churches desiring to move” (G-11.0103j). If we wanted to pursue a move, we would work very closely with Presbytery staff and the Committee on Ministry to establish a concrete mission plan explaining why we chose the new location and how our ministry there enhances the mission of the church and Presbytery. Finally, if the church were to vote to remit its charter and close, this would be voted on by Presbytery as well. If approved, an Administrative Commission would begin working *with us* to determine the timing of the closure, appropriation of all funds/assets and the execution of all legal matters. We would have a say-so in how those funds are used by the PCUSA/Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Which actually leads to the

Third: has the Session voted to continue our ministry here? At our December Session meeting, your pledges were received with thanksgiving and the first draft budget for 2006 was presented. At the January meeting we negotiated, debated, discussed, prayed over and approved a budget. The answer to the question is now a clear “YES.” The Elders of CNCP have taken bold action to continue ministry here in an unequivocal financial step that says we’re moving forward in ministry here and now. At the annual meeting you will be able to discuss the budget in depth if so desired.

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Session Highlights

Stewardship & Finance-(Dean Morley & Joan Clemens)

The Session approved the Budget for fiscal year 2006. Help will be needed from all of us, as we struggle to meet expected expenses.

Fellowship-(Nancy Meinersmann, Chair)

The committee has organized itself into four groups within Fellowship. They are as follows:

Small Groups Coordinator-Bill Thompson

Congregational Care Coordinator-Jennelle Robertson

Evangelism Coordinator-Ann Grier & Stephanie Dodunski

Presbyterian Women Liaison-Jennelle Robertson

They will be asking for volunteers to help with all of these functions.

Spiritual Growth-(Scott Johnson & Patrick Lesley)

The Gospel and Matrix Class began on January 20th at the Chocolate coffee shop.

Witness-(Nancy Berlin & Vicki Castleberry)

Sunday February 5th will be Souper Bowl Sunday. The Youth Group will be asking for your donations.

Buildings and Grounds (Bill Womack)

An Application has been made for Capital Matching Grant Funds to make some desperately needed repairs to our facility, both outside and inside.

Bill Bower

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Music Director/Organist: Brandon Beachamp

brandonbeachamp@msn.com

Secretary: Rebecca Lesley

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9 am-2 pm

Session Members

Class of 2006

Ann Grier (Congregational Care)

Scott Johnson (Discipleship)

Vicki Castleberry (Witness)

Dean Morley (Stewardship & Finance)

Bill Womack (Buildings & Grounds)

Class of 2007

Nancy Berlin (Witness)

Joan Clemens (Stewardship & Finance)

Jennelle Robertson (Congregational Care)

John Wheeler (Worship)

Class of 2008

Bill Bower (Clerk of Session, Personnel)

Suzanne Holton (Worship)

Patrick Lesley (Discipleship)

Nancy Meinersmann (Congregational Care)

Bill Thompson (Fellowship)

Youth Elder, Class of 2006

Stephanie Dodunski (Fellowship)

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NOTES

MUSIC APPRECIATION EVENT

On Sunday evening, February 26, CNC will celebrate the gifts of music our church musicians share with us as they help lead and enrich our worship each week. We'll begin at 6 pm with a concert by an ensemble from the Gay Men's Chorus followed by a pancake supper with a Mardi Gras theme. There will be a nominal charge of \$5 per person with a maximum of \$10 per family unit. This celebration is open to all, including those beyond our church family.

ASH WEDNESDAY

CNC will offer an Ash Wednesday worship service at 7 pm, Wednesday, March 1. This is a meaningful way to mark the start of the Lenten season.

MONTREAT CONFERENCE

There's already a buzz in the air about the next Montreat Worship and Music Conference. We have reserved Folly Lodge for the second week of the conference, June 25 – July 1. Four or five people have already expressed an interest in going. The house sleeps a maximum of nine people. This is a very popular conference with programs for all ages, elementary school through adult. If you are considering going or would like to know more, please contact Suzanne Holton.



February Birthdays

Scott Johnson	Feb. 1
Bud Commins	Feb. 6
Mary Ellen Shore	Feb. 7
Weldon Palmour	Feb. 10
Jeff Davis	Feb. 11
Samuel Stryker, III	Feb. 12
Ted Mikalsen	Feb. 13
Gary Ashley	Feb. 14
Ashley DeVore	Feb. 14
Todd Jones	Feb. 18
Nancy Meinersmann	Feb. 19
Mandy Griffin	Feb. 23
Marilyn Stryker	Feb. 24
Jim Armstrong	Feb. 27
Louise Smith	Feb. 28

The **AIM** item of the month
for February is:

Spaghetti Pasta

Please drop your items in the plastic bins
located by any church exit.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Dinners for Eight -- Back by Popular Demand!

Thanks to the response from members and friends in our recent Time and Talents survey, CNC will be reinstating the Dinners for Eight program, wherein members and friends sign up to be part of one of several dinner groups of six or eight couples (or singles). The idea is for one of the members of each group to host a dinner party every other month (or as frequently as each group desires). Please look for sign-up sheets in the pass-through, or contact Ann Grier to sign up. The sooner we get some groups organized, the sooner we can start this fun activity!

Ann Grier (404-885-9247)

ranngrier@yahoo.com



February Lectionary Readings

- Feb. 5** Isa. 40:21-31; Ps. 147:1-11, 20c;
1 Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
- Feb. 12** 2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps. 30; 1 Cor. 9:24-
27; Mark 1:40-45
- Feb. 19** Isa. 43:18-25; Ps. 41; 2 Cor. 1:18-22;
Mark 2:1-12
- Feb. 26** 2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps. 50:1-6; 2 Cor.
4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

A Note from the Pastor, continued:

Though the 2006 budget will be balanced by withdrawing a significant amount from our savings, the intention is to present ministry opportunities throughout the year for our renewal and spiritual growth. Since a significant percentage of our expenditures go toward administrative and property needs, I encourage all of you to remember our building, grounds and personnel are assets to be used for the glory of God and God's mission in this community. It is easy to forget that our staff and buildings and grounds are in fact, an avenue to conducting effective ministry. Maintenance and repair of this building will require significant investment to continue ministry here. Tangible Benevolence giving is 9.5% of the final budget approved. (This does not include the use of the building by other groups.)

The priorities adopted by the Session focus on developing mature disciples through fellowship and study and include outreach not normally considered "benevolence" but could be seen as adding to the percent of income dedicated to proclaiming the gospel to others (VBS, classes offered off-campus, etc.). With your offerings of Time, Talents, and funds, this year will be a wonderful year of ministry at Church of the New Covenant. The first disciples asked Jesus where he was staying, and he replied, "Come and see." I hope you will!

Peace,
Beverly

NEW CLASS

A 3 week seminar on the Spiritual Gifts. Come study the Biblical foundations for understanding your unique gifts from the Holy Spirit and how to use them for a more fulfilling life in and beyond the church. Beverly Ostrowski will lead the class from 9-10 on Sunday mornings. Classes begin on February 12.

Thoughts about the Transfiguration

In Matthew 17, we read about Jesus' taking James and John up to the top of a high mountain. It was there that Jesus suddenly appeared to have a different countenance. He was transfigured, his body taking on a glow. Matthew writes: "His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white" (Matthew 17:2, NRSV).

Not only did his friends observe that amazing change but they heard a voice saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (17:5).

What happened then? Those fellows did what many of us would have done. They fell to the ground overcome by fear. But they stayed there until Jesus came and touched them. He told them not to be afraid. Then, after they had settled down a bit, he led them down the mountain.

What does that experience say to us? Certainly it shows that Jesus is the unique Son of God. We might call this event the ordination of Jesus.

Opportunities for Enrichment



If you would like more information on any of these opportunities, please contact Becca in the church office at 770-455-8117 or newcovenantpcusa@bellsouth.net

Southern Hospitality-the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley would like to invite you to join Presbyterians in central Alabama in welcoming the commissioners and participants to the **217th General Assembly in Birmingham, June 15-22, 2006**. The Committee on Local Arrangements needs 1200 volunteers to serve in their ministry of hospitality to those attending GA. Online sign-up will begin soon! Please watch for more information.

Spirit Flames- A Celebration of the ordained leadership of women in the Presbyterian Church (USA) 100 years as deacon, 75 years as elder, and 50 years as minister of the Word and Sacrament. **March 9-11, 2006** at First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA. All are invited, all a welcome: men, women, youth, ordained and not ordained. Registration fee is \$75. Please contact Becca in the church office for registration forms.

TAMFS Conference-March 17-19, 2006. There are many workshop experiences available. The conference will be held at Calvin Center. They will also have a pick-up choir, outdoor labyrinth, canoeing, horseback riding, a hay ride, the high-ropes challenge course, and an Atlanta Tour available. Please contact Becca in the office for registration forms.

Clifton
Sanctuary
Ministries

The Clifton Night Hospitality volunteers this month are:

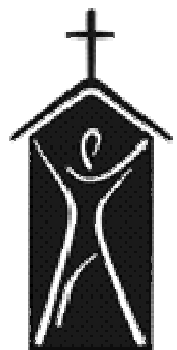
Feb. 4 – Norcross Presbyterian

Feb. 8 – Frank Wright

Feb. 11 – Ted and Suzanne Mikalsen

Feb. 18 – the Weavers, Jan Kepic & Sandy Bond

(If you would like to learn more about Clifton, please click on the icon to the left.)



Youth Calendar

February 2006!

Feb. 5- We'll meet at Morningside Pres. and go to the Bremen Holocaust Museum.

Feb. 12- CNC Youth Group will get dance fever!

Feb. 19- OYPA will meet at Rock Spring

Feb. 26- CNC Youth group will work on plans for Youth Sunday

Adults...

Youth Need You!

We need volunteers to provide meals for Sunday evening youth group. The youth's parents will assist the members who share their table with us. You will also be reimbursed for the expenses you submit. BUT, most importantly, we want you to eat with us, so we can get to know each other. Please contact Beverly Ostrowski or Patrick Lesley if you can help.





February

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p><u>Sunday Morning Schedule:</u> Sunday School– 9:00 a.m. Worship– 10:30 a.m.</p> </div>			1	2	3	4
			Asbell Ringers 6:30 Adult Choir 7:45		The Matrix and the Gospel at Chocolate 7-9 pm	Winter Leadership Conference
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
OYPA to Bremen Museum		Crochet 1 pm	Asbell Ringers 6:30 Adult Choir 7:45		The Matrix and the Gospel at Chocolate 7-9 pm	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
CNC Youth 5:00 Session Meeting 7pm		<i>PW Circle 10 am</i> Crochet 1 pm <i>PW Circle 6 pm</i>	Asbell Ringers 6:30 Adult Choir 7:45		The Matrix and the Gospel at Chocolate 7-9 pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
OYPA @ Rock Spring 5:30	March Newsletter Deadline	Crochet 1 pm	Asbell Ringers 6:30 Adult Choir 7:45		The Matrix and the Gospel at Chocolate 7-9 pm	
26	27	28				
 <p>Transfiguration of the Lord</p> <p>Music Appreciation Banquet</p>		Crochet 1 pm				