

NEW COVENANT NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 3

A monthly ministry of the people of CNCP

March 2006

A Note from the Pastor:

Dear Friends:

The coming of March seldom reminds me of St. Patrick's Day and leprechauns. I usually think of kites. I cannot say for sure when I learned that March was the perfect, windy month for kite-flying but I must have been very young because it seems like something I have always known. I don't remember flying kites much as a child however. There never seemed to be space enough to get it launched much less see the heights to which it would rise. Power lines, trees, other houses, lanes of traffic, too many people in the park were all roadblocks. Summers at the beach presented a different story however.

There I was, standing in the water's edge, thrilled by the soaring path my little kite had reached. I saw another kite and looked away to see who would launch so close to me. The boy had not one, but two kite strings. I looked back to the sky. Only one other kite and it looked like it would crash at any second as it headed straight down in a spiral toward the sand. Suddenly, it whooshed back up and then swooped in what I can only call a loop-de-loop. (Perhaps some of you remember the summer that trick-kites burst onto the scene.) By the end of the week, my little kite was not so much fun. In fact kite-flying lost its appeal as this new trick kite took off and new versions were ready each year. When I tried to teach my children about kite-flying with our single wing-single string version, they enjoyed it—for about 3 days. Then, back to the more interesting and challenging and new games kids enjoyed. And while we're on the subject, when did snowboarding become commonly accepted and approved for the Olympics? I thought that was one of the X-treme sports and now it's, well, mainstream?!

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43: 18-19) Change, not even transformation, seems to be built into the very nature and way of God from ancient times. The winds of change are upon us again. I wonder what new life will blow our way. Will we look nostalgically at the pastors or ministries of yesterday? Will we try out the new ones or lament the ones we no longer have? Will we adapt and learn to soar with a new extreme team? Or will we feel left behind by newer, more exciting models of _____ (you fill in the blank), things which we never dreamed would exist and that our grandchildren can't imagine having not existed?

“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3: 8)

I did buy a new-fangled trick kite once. Never quite got the hang of it, but I sure had a good time trying to get the feel of the wind.

See you in church, on the wings of the Wind, if we're so blessed!

Peace,
Beverly

Session Highlights

Here are some of the highlights from the stated session meeting held on Feb. 12, 2006.

Witness

Some \$200.00 was collected by the Youth Group on Souper Bowl Sunday and will be donated equally to IOH and AIM.

Midville Mission and Bettye Jackson provided a wonderful scrapbook of thank you letters and pictures. It will be posted on the Witness Bulletin Board. Please view it at your leisure.

Finance

Susan F. Willson was appointed Treasurer for our church with Joan Clemens and Dean Morley as back-up.

The Trustees voted to extend to Jim Armstrong our appreciation for his long and diligent service as Treasurer.

Buildings and Grounds

Session approved a motion to establish a committee to investigate the possible sale of a portion of our property to the Northwoods Montessori School.

Other

Action has been taken to move the names of fourteen persons from our Active members list to the Inactive members list. These are persons who have not been in attendance for more than one year.

Ann Grier and Patrick Lesley will be our commissioners at the March 4 Presbytery meeting.

Bill Bower

The Church of the New Covenant

3330 Chestnut Drive
Doraville, GA 30340
Ph: 770-455-8117
Fax: 770-455-8553

Email: newcovenantpcusa@bellsouth.net

Interim Pastor: Beverly Ostrowski
cell phone: 770-361-3987
bostrowski@bellsouth.net

Music Director/Organist: Brandon Beachamp
brandonbeachamp@msn.com

Secretary: Rebecca Lesley
newcovenantpcusa@bellsouth.net

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)

**“Dinners for Eight”
is now
“Dinners for Six”!**

Based on the responses so far, the Fellowship Committee has decided to reduce the number of guests in our new dinner parties to six. This will allow more groups, more intimate visits, and more room at the table for food!

Please sign up by **March 5** on the poster in the church pass-through. (You may still sign up after March 5, there’s always room for more at the table!) We are hoping to get the dinner groups arranged during the week of March 6, and we will let everyone know the make-up and host of their groups sometime that week. Each group will rotate hosting and planning duties.

Thanks, and bon appetit!

Ann Grier (404-885-9247)

ranngrier@yahoo.com

Jennelle Robertson (770-822-1111)

jaccy@bellsouth.net



March Birthdays

Richard Russ	March 1
Kristin Johnson	March 2
Carol Payne	March 2
Kathy Davis	March 3
Pauline Weaver	March 3
Bill Washburn	March 8
Susan Goslin	March 12
Jason Clay	March 13
Kaitlyn Jordan	March 15
Bob Weaver	March 15
Jim Wilson	March 16
Samuel Stryker	March 18
Teford White	March 18
John Meinersmann	March 19
Keller Smith	March 20
Sam McCleskey	March 28



Presbyterian Women will discuss Lesson 7, Holy Week, from Kathleen Bostrom’s Bible Study, For Everything A Season, at circle meetings, March 14th. Everyone is invited to participate in our 2006 Mission Project, Gift of the Heart Kits, for Church World Service. We hope to assemble an assortment of three kits, a School Kit, a Health Kit, and a Baby Kit. You may sign up on the bulletin board in the pass through to gather items for a kit or to donate the specified money amount for each kit. Ask Jan Kecip for a descriptive pamphlet or see the information on the bulletin board. These Heart Kits will help refugees, displaced people and the victims of natural disasters.

It is time to register for the NE Synod Spring Retreats at Rock Eagle, April 21-23 and the Atlanta Presbytery Retreat at Callaway Garden, April 29-30. Vicki Castleberry, Eugenia Powell and Helen Palmour are planning to go to the Callaway Retreat. Suzanne Mikalsen and Pauline Weaver are going to Rock Eagle. Come join them!

The annual PW gathering will be March 19th at Shallowford PC. Let’s plan to carpool from the church.

Valentine boxes were sent to Rebecca Altman, Ashley DeVore, Scott Dryman, Steven Holton, Becca Lesley, Virginia Palmour, Amy Phillips, Jessica Riviere, Victor Sandi, Kevin Smith, Ryan Weaver, Justin Ostrowski, Alan Wedd, Jon Petty, Jason Clay, and Teri Peterson.



March Lectionary Readings

March 5 1 st Lent	Gen. 9:8-17; Ps. 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
March 12 2 nd Lent	Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps. 22:23-31; Rom. 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
March 19 3 rd Lent	Exod. 20:1-17; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
March 26 4 th Lent	Num. 21:4-9; Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22; Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

The AIM item of the month for March is:

Please drop your items in the plastic bins
located by any church exit.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Kenya Benefit Lunch & Silent Auction

The Druid Hills United Methodist Church is sponsoring a Benefit Lunch & Silent Auction for AIDS orphans in Nairobi, Kenya on **Sunday Noon, March 5th**. The purpose of this Benefit is to raise money to build an orphanage in May, 2006. This event will be held at 1200 Ponce de Leon Avenue (at Briarcliff). All donations are 100% tax deductible. Admission for the lunch is: adults (\$10), students (\$5), children 5 yrs. or younger (free).

The Six Star Refugee Partnership Board agreed to help promote this benefit event after meeting with a Druid Hills UMC representative at the February Board meeting. Druid Hills UMC is considering joining Six Star.

March Minute for Mission – Six Star Refugee Partnership

Six area churches came together in 1999 and created the Six Star Refugee Partnership to help settle refugees in Atlanta. We have now successfully settled four large families, with our fifth, the Ngateh family, scheduled to move out on their own this coming summer and our sixth, the Niyungeko family, now gaining their footing. Our families have come from Sierra Leon, Congo, Afghanistan, Liberia, and Burundi.

Each family has presented their own unique challenges and joys, and the volunteers from the Six Star partner churches have learned more with each family. That knowledge was put to the test when we received our newest family “straight off the boat” at the airport, without their first receiving several weeks of intensive cultural indoctrination at Jubilee Partners.

CNC is a very active founding partner, and has been since the beginning. We have been instrumental in the renovation of the two apartments that comprise the Blue Ridge House. We have helped tutor the Afghan children, some of which had missed as many as six years of school. We have generously donated furnishings and supplies to restock the apartment of each new family. A total of 17 CNC members were involved with Six Star in one manner or another in 2005, including four serving on the Six Star Board (two as voting members representing CNC and three are officers).

But, our work is not done. Our mission is to mentor and assist refugee families during their transition to self-reliance and to advocate on behalf of the refugee community. We would like to expand Six Star to serve more families, and we have developed a plan to work towards that goal. Our first step is to invite more churches into the Partnership.

This summer will be an exciting time, as we assist the Ngateh family in moving out on their own, renovating the downstairs apartment, and then receiving a new refugee family in the fall. Won't you join us in welcoming another family of Strangers to Atlanta?

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.

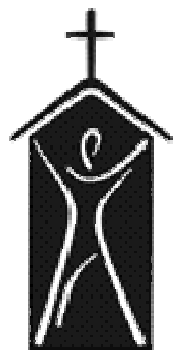
Spirit Flames- A Celebration of the ordained leadership of women in the Presbyterian Church (USA) 100 years as deacon, 75 years as elder, and 50 years as minister of the Word and Sacrament. **March 9-11, 2006** at First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA. All are invited, all a welcome: men, women, youth, 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:
Mar. 4 – Norcross Presbyterian
Mar. 8 – Frank Wright
Mar. 11 – Ted and Suzanne Mikalsen
Mar. 18 – Kenneth & Marty Riviere, Marc Dryman

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



Youth Calendar

MARCh 2006!

March 5 - OYPA JESUS CHRIST, SUPERSTAR! Bring pillows and blankets for a showing of this fun, fabulous musical about the most famous man in history!

March 12 - CNC youth group studies the Garden of Paradise.

March 19 - OYPA

March 26 - CNC youth group looks at relationships.

DISCIPLE

Coming Soon! An experience that will change you and your life as a DISCIPLE! *Disciple* courses are powerful small groups. Through study and discussion of Scripture, former students will tell you, the Living Word is life-giving and transformative. After Easter, we will provide a new 8-week *Disciple* class. An information session will be held after worship, March 26 to describe the course and explain the commitment. Consider joining in this short-term course coming soon!

MARCH

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
<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>					World Day of Prayer	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Committee Meetings after worship OYPA at Oglethorpe 5:30		Crochet 1 pm	Asbell Ringers 6:30 Adult Choir 7:45			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Congregational Meeting after worship 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			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<i>PW District 2</i> <i>Coffee 3 p.m.</i>		Crochet 1 pm	Asbell Ringers 6:30 Adult Choir 7:45	April Newsletter Deadline		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		Crochet 1 pm	Asbell Ringers 6:30 Adult Choir 7:45			