

# NEW COVENANT NEWS

## A Note from the New Pastor:

If ever a person wants to feel welcome, he or she should come to this church! All of you have been wonderful: introducing yourselves, answering questions and showing me the way as I begin to get to know you as individuals and Church of the New Covenant as a congregation. Thank you for your generous welcome into this family of faith.

Thanks go, in particular, to Becca Lesley for helping me get settled into the office and teaching me basic things like how to use the alarm system and the phones; to Bill Bower for helping me get up to speed on the work of the session; to Brandon Beachamp for being such an inspired partner in the planning and leadership of worship; and to all of you who are coming in to tell me of your work and your life in this church.

I will be coming in to the office every day but Friday, and I hope you will stop by. I will, of course, have my share of pastoral needs to attend to and meetings here and there, but never hesitate to come in, or call or drop me a line by email. The phone number here is 770-455-8117 and my extension is 21. My email address is [pastorcnc@bellsouth.net](mailto:pastorcnc@bellsouth.net). It is important to me to hear from you.

Beginnings are times of great anticipation. When a child is born, or a marriage begins, or a person wakes up on the first day of a new school year, people are filled with hopes and dreams about the possibilities that lie ahead. I am excited about getting to know you. I am eager to learn about the ways you minister to one another and to your neighbors near and far, and to join with you in that sacred work.

Beginnings are opportunities to reconnect with what brought this church into being in the first place: the love of God in Christ and the call to share that love among our neighbors. They are occasions to look at things in new ways, to say, "This is great. Let's give it some more energy and run with it." Or, "Hmmm... Here is something that needs some adjustment. Maybe we need to do this differently."

Our church family is like a group of explorers who have been on a long trek. They have, of necessity, been keeping their eyes focused on the terrain immediately in front of them so they could negotiate it properly. After a time they come to a place to rest for the night, perhaps at the top of a hill. In the morning the sunlight finds its way through the trees and warms their faces. They yawn and stretch and rise up to prepare for the new day's journey. They stand together on the hill with the sun at their back and lift their eyes to see what lies ahead. Before them is spread a bountiful land of mountains and valleys and meadows and streams, and they gaze in awe as they hear in their hearts the gracious invitation to enter in.

Let us stride with gusto into the future that God has for us.

Yours in faith,

*Rick*

## Session Highlights

Here are some of the highlights from the stated session meeting held on October 8, 2006

The session held a called meeting on Oct. 5, to approve a called congregational meeting in order for the PNC to present a candidate for pastor to be voted on by the congregation.

The Stewardship and Finance committee presented Mandy Davis as replacement treasurer upon Gail Cole's resignation effective January 1, 2007.

Under the fellowship committee, the Hospitality team met and approved the contents, layout and colors of a brochure about CNC and authorized the placement of an order of 500. There are plans to re-instate the hospitality refreshment cart after worship if sufficient interest is displayed.

A pictorial directory is under way, thank you to Mandy Davis for her efforts.

The dinners for 6 or 8 groups have been posted and groups can begin their dinners as they please.

The next Senior's group was scheduled for Oct. 19. (It was subsequently cancelled.)

The fall hike was scheduled for Oct. 21, to be held at Sweetwater Creek State Park.

On Nov. 19 there will be a Thanksgiving luncheon after worship.

There will be a Victorian Christmas Party on 12/10.

The idea for a family game night was also proposed, date TBA.



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**Pastor:** Rev. Rick Neale

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**Music Director/Organist:** Brandon Beachamp

[cncmusic@bellsouth.net](mailto:cncmusic@bellsouth.net)

**Secretary:** Rebecca Lesley

[newcovenantpcusa@bellsouth.net](mailto:newcovenantpcusa@bellsouth.net)

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

### Session Members

#### Class of 2007

Nancy Berlin (service)

Joan Clemens (stewardship & finance)

Jennelle Robertson (fellowship)

John Wheeler (worship)

#### Class of 2008

Bill Bower (Clerk of Session)

Suzanne Holton (worship)

Patrick Lesley (spiritual growth)

Nancy Meinersmann (fellowship)

#### Class of 2009

Scott Holton (service)

Jeannie Jones (spiritual growth)

Richard Russ (building & grounds)

#### Youth Elder, Class of 2007

Elizabeth Davis (spiritual growth)

*Bill Bower*

# STEWARDSHIP REPORT

	YTD-06 Actual	YTD-06 Budget
Pledged Offerings	86,416	97,500
Total Operating Income	129,525	136,650
	Sept 06 Actual	Sept 06 Budget
Pledged Offerings	7,504	10,833
Total Operating Income	11,815	15,183



## November Birthdays

John Willson	Nov. 5
Susan Willson	Nov. 6
John Wheeler	Nov. 7
Joan Clemens	Nov. 10
Peggy Heinisch	Nov. 10
Claire Commins	Nov. 17
Stephanie Dodunski	Nov. 17
Jim Glenn	Nov. 17
Becky Thurston	Nov. 17
Brenda Dryman	Nov. 20
Carolyn Staton	Nov. 21

AIM Item of the month for  
NOVEMBER

is

**Rice**

16 oz. size

Please leave your donations in the  
bins located by any exit.

Donations are desperately needed as the weather gets colder. Our collections for September were:

- 8 - Maseca corn flour
- 1 - corn meal
- 13 - dry beans
- 1 - flour
- 1 - 2# sugar
- 2 - Campbell's soups

### OUR COLLECTION IS VERY LOW.

This is one of our local missions. During the colder months, people come to the church looking for help with food and other necessities and we direct them to AIM. Please help us keep the AIM food pantry stocked.



## November Lectionary Readings

<b>Nov. 5</b>	Ruth 1:1-18; Ps. 146; Heb. 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34
<b>Nov. 12</b>	Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Ps. 127; Heb. 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
<b>Nov. 19</b>	1 Sam. 1:4-20; 1 Sam. 2:1-10; Heb. 10:11-14 (15-18); Mark 13:1-8
<b>Nov. 26</b> Christ the King	2 Sam. 23:1-7; Ps. 132:1-12 (13-18) Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

# The Blend

## Friday Night Study Group



We are resuming our 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday schedule. Our next meeting is Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at Chocolaté Coffee in the Publix plaza on Shallowford Rd. at 85. We are studying a short, 4-part curriculum on Christians and Politics. Then we will break for the holidays. When we resume in the new year, we will be studying *The Gospel according to the Simpsons*, lead by Jason Clay! Please join us!

Christmas Party



# It's a Party!

I know it seems early to think about this, but I also know how busy we all get this time of year. So mark your calendars now because the young adult group (The Blend) will have their annual Christmas party on Dec. 15 at the home of the Lesleys. There will be a gift exchange- NOT white elephant- but please do not spend more than \$10.00 for your gift.

**We welcome anyone who feels young at heart!**

You **do not** have to have been coming to our Friday night meetings to join our party! The Lesleys live at 658 Rollingwood Dr. in Stone Mountain. If you are not comfortable with Mapquest (or any other mapping software), please call Becca for directions.

770-455-8117 (w) or 770-279-9889 (h).

# From Our Service Committee



The Church of the New Covenant has supported Midville Mission for many years. Midville is a small rural community south of Augusta at the crossroads of Highways 17 and 58. This community continues to be the most impoverished area in Georgia. Our history with Midville began in the early 1970s when church school children hung socks on their church Christmas tree. Seventeen children received a pair of new socks for Christmas. The mission has gone through many changes both in location and leadership. Our current contact is Bettye Jackson, President of the Midville Community Development Outreach Center. Our church has received a list of children and elderly adults. This list will be posted in the pass-through by **Sunday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>**. You are encouraged to provide a wrapped gift for one or more of the children and the elderly. We will continue to place socks

on the Sock Tree and collect clean, used clothing in good repair, toys and children's books. We would like to take staples such as canned fruits and vegetables, pork and beans, rice, cereals, flour, sugar, and noodles. These foods will be packed in grocery bags and delivered to the elderly and those with illnesses and disabilities. The Service Committee provides a donation, which is used to buy fresh meats and fruits for the grocery bags and cookies and fruit for their Christmas Party. These gifts must be placed under the tree in the Fellowship Hall by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will deliver the gifts to Midville on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Berlin or Pauline and Bob Weaver.



The Clifton Night Hospitality volunteers this month are:

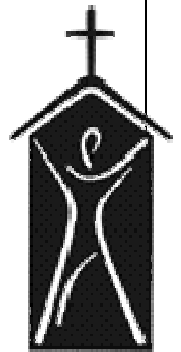
Nov. 4 – Norcross Presbyterian

Nov. 8 – Frank Wright

Nov. 11 – Ted & Suzanne Mikalsen

Nov. 18 – Kenneth & Marty Riviere, Marc Dryman

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



## Thanksgiving Luncheon Sunday, November 19

After worship, there will be a thanksgiving luncheon to share our bounty with our CNC friends and family. The Fellowship committee will provide the turkey and beverages. Please bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share.

# Opportunities for Enrichment



On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, at 11 am I will be presenting a program combining music and nature at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children and seniors. My presentation is free with admission to the Center. I would love to see you there!

--Linda Johnson



Our own Rev. Rick Neale sings with the group Atlanta Schola Cantorum which will present *Hymns to the Virgin* on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 pm at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, GA. For more information, please visit [www.atlantaschola.org](http://www.atlantaschola.org) and click "Details" under the announcement for this concert.



You're invited to join Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Committee for Inclusion in worship on November 12, 2006 at 6:30 pm. The worship service will be a thanksgiving celebration to God for diversity, especially celebrating the gifts of LGBT Christian Presbyterians and their allies. Everyone is welcome! The Rev. Erin Swenson will preach. Worship leaders will include The Rev. Ernie Hess, one of the newest members of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. We are excited to offer this opportunity for worship and a time of fellowship following the service to all who celebrate God's extravagant welcome. For more information contact Beverly F. Ostrowski, chairperson, CFI, [bfostrow@aol.com](mailto:bfostrow@aol.com) or 770/361-3987.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



Please join us at 5 pm, Sunday, December 12, in the sanctuary for an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols followed by a Victorian Figgy Pudding Party.

### ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

### CHRISTMAS EVE

We'll meet in the sanctuary at 7 pm on Sunday, December 24, for our Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols. Everyone is encouraged to bring a plate of cookies or other finger food to share afterwards. Come raise your voices to celebrate the nativity and the birth of our Savior! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

# “...one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.”

As the final stanza of “A mighty fortress” continues to echo through the hallways, and in our heads, a new song is forming on our lips:

“For all the Saints, who from their labors rest.”

Saints? In a Presbyterian church? So soon after Reformation Sunday? In a word, yes.

The church loves divisions; niches, rather. We carve out little corners where we can “do our thing” just the way “we’ve always done it” without regard to the Church – our history, our roots, our bonds. This is not to say that denominationalism isn’t important, or that the theological struggles and insights that define a particular “brand” of Christianity are insignificant. Those distinctions are paramount to the breadth of diversity in Christian thought and belief. But what about worship and liturgy?

As the world continues its proud divisions, we need a church that is united in Christ, through the Holy Spirit in service and honor to God. When we pray, we pray *with* the Church, *for* the world. When we sing, we sing *with* the voice of the Church to glorify God. When we share in Christ’s table, we eat *with* our brothers and sisters in Christ in every time and place.

Theologian Marva Dawn said, “You can’t be a Christian by yourself.” How then, can we be church by ourselves?

As we proudly claim a heritage as Presbyterians, let us more boldly claim a place in the communion of saints so that our song may be . . .

From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
And singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

# NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">                     Sunday School classes - 9 a.m.                      Worship - 10:30 a.m.                      each Sunday unless otherwise noted                 </div>			1 Asbell Ringers 6:30 pm Adult Choir 7:45 pm	2	3  Eye Openers 7-9 pm at Chocolate	4
5 Fellowship planning meeting after worship Session 7 pm	6	7 Crochet 1-3 pm	8 Asbell Ringers 6:30 pm Adult Choir 7:45 pm	9	10	11
12	13	14 PW Circle 10 a.m. Crochet 1-3 pm PW Circle 6 p.m.	15 Asbell Ringers 6:30 pm Adult Choir 7:45 pm	16	17  Eye Openers 7-9 pm at Chocolate	18
19 Thanksgiving luncheon after worship	20	21 Crochet 1-3 pm	22 NO Music Rehearsals	23 	24	25
26	27	28 Crochet 1-3 pm	29 Asbell Ringers 6:30 pm Adult Choir 7:45 pm	30		