

THE CORNERSTONE

Community Covenant Church



April 2010



Holy Week – March 28 – April 4

This week changed the world and continues to change the world as people discover the incredible gift of God’s grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Holy Week is a time set apart to refocus one’s attention on Christ’s saving work. To that end, these times of worship have been planned for your growth in Christ.



Passion/Palm Sunday, March 28, 11:00 a.m.

As we begin Holy Week with the traditional “Procession of Palms” by the children, we acknowledge the momentary elation of the followers of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem one week prior to Easter Sunday. While the celebrative nature of the day gives rise to such expressions of joy as the waving of palms, this worship is designed to lift up the tension between triumph and passion, for the cross is only five days away. As we hear the sermon, *“The Suffering Caused by Finger Pointing,”* we will be reminded that the suffering of Christ is not just about physical suffering but the emotional suffering caused by “finger pointing.” Through Christ’s suffering, we can discover the hope that God offers to us so we can live a better way of life.

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

(held jointly with the United Methodist Church)

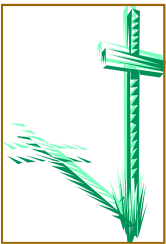
at United Methodist Church, 54 N. Central Street, East Bridgewater

On this night, Jesus Christ spent his last evening with the disciples before his crucifixion. Jesus continued to teach the disciples what it meant to be His follower – a servant of Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus shared the Last Supper with His beloved disciples, so will we. We will retell, remember, and relive this night as we continue to be Jesus’ disciples. Come and sit with Jesus and His followers as we remember together.

Good Friday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

(jointly with Elmwood New Church, Union Congregational Church, and United Methodist Church)

at Community Covenant Church



On this most holy day, Good Friday, our worship will be through the ancient worship service called “Tenebrae,” which means “darkness.” In this worship, several candles are gradually extinguished symbolizing the flight and denial of the disciples of Jesus on this day. The Christ Candle is extinguished at the end to symbolize His death and the complete darkness of the world without Jesus from Good Friday until Easter. Come and experience the depth of Christ’s love for you. Come and worship the Christ who suffered and was crucified for you.

Easter Sunrise, April 4, 6:00 a.m.

at Central Cemetery in East Bridgewater

(enter the cemetery from the back parking lot of St. John Roman Catholic Church)

Union Congregational Church, sponsors of a 20 minute Easter sunrise service at Central Cemetery in East Bridgewater, has extended the invitation to anyone who wants to attend. Come and experience the arrival early on Easter morning of the women who discovered that Jesus was not dead but alive. Hallelujah!

Easter Sunday, April 4, 11:00 a.m.

Come celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! As the Easter lilies in the sanctuary “trumpet” the truth that Christ is alive...come and proclaim the truth that Jesus Christ is now among the living. Pastor Olson’s sermon will be *“The Promise of Reversibility”* based on the text *John 20:1-18*. We will hear the truth that Jesus Christ is alive and therefore those things that we see as irreversible, such as death, are reversible through the resurrection of Christ. This is the power and truth of the resurrection story. Christ changes everything, including our perceptions of reality. Life is reversible with Jesus. Praise be to God!



From the Pastor's Desk:

“What’s Your One Step?”

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”

2 Corinthians 5:20

Holy Week will come and go. Easter Sunday will bring to conclusion the events of Holy Week with the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. So what happens after April 4th in your spiritual pilgrimage? What do you do with this incredible Good News? I believe God calls us to live the story of the resurrection and to share it with everyone we know. So during the season of Eastertide (April 4 – May 9th), our worship celebrations will center on how we can be ambassadors of this Good News of Christ. Read on...



Over the past twenty years, our church has participated in *“Bringing My World to Christ”* with our whole denomination, the Evangelical Covenant Church. For those who are familiar with this significant ministry, let me refresh your memory; for those who are new to our church, let me tell you about it. *“Bringing My World to Christ”* was a teachable and user-friendly approach to being Biblical ambassadors for Christ with our friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers, classmates, or anyone that we had contact with in the world.

The essence of this approach was for everyone to commit themselves to pray, care, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with individuals who did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and were in one’s sphere of influence. Specifically, *“Bringing My World to Christ”* asked each one of us to name one or more persons (by name) who needed to know the saving love of God. By naming specific people, we have discovered that our commitment to be ambassadors for Christ to them is deeper and more tangible.

After we committed to Christ our list of persons for *“Bringing My World to Christ,”* we then promised to God that we would pray daily for them, do tangible acts of caring to build relationships with them, and then share the Gospel when God gave us the opportunity. The reality for this commitment was to recognize that every person’s faith pilgrimage is a journey that is one step at a time. Our goal is to help people take their next step of faith.

This leads me to the present. Our denomination has taken the best of *“Bringing My World to Christ”* and has refreshed it with a new name, *“One Step Closer.”* The language communicates the truth clearly: the faith journey is to help every person take *“One Step Closer”* to Christ. So the next logical question becomes *“What’s Your One Step?”* in helping your friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers, classmates, or anyone that you have contact with in the world take *“One Step Closer”* to Christ and the gift of salvation.

For five Sundays beginning on April 11th, we will explore what it means to be God’s messengers of Good News in the world through a series of worship celebrations/sermons on the theme of *“What’s Your One Step?”* We will pursue the question, *“What is your specific ‘one step’ as you pray, care, and share with people who need to hear the Good News?”* The conclusion of this 5-week series will be on May 9th when everyone will be invited to share in worship the answer to that question: What one step have you taken as you are Christ’s ambassadors in the world? And more importantly, *“How have you seen God at work?”*



I am looking forward to hearing and seeing what God is going to do through you and me as we explore *“What’s Your One Step?”*

Pastor Don Olson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL 2010



Dolores Bergstrom	3	Jacob Duys	8	Marissa Snow	21
Walter Brown	3	Lindsay Keith	8	Joshua Buzzee	22
Benjamin Buzzee	3	Zachary Cheney	10	Kristen Lanagan	22
Anna Gillis	4	Marjorie Fitzmaurice	10	Thomas Bolinder	25
Carol Phelan	4	Alexander Miltner	17	Erik Olson	25
Lynn Martin	5	Jane Ostlund	17	Dylan Peebles	26
Merrill "Bud" Finch	6	Kate Sandford	17	Peter Vacchi	26
Madison Pebbles	6	Mike Hoppe	21	Richard Wakeling	26
Frank MacLean	7	Morgan Lanagan	21		

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 3rd 8:00 am

All men are welcome to attend this monthly breakfast on the first Saturday of each month. To RSVP, please call Tom Chiocca by Thursday, April 1st.

HI-LEAGUE "1st SUNDAY"

Cancelled for April

There will no gathering of Hi-League "1st Sunday" at the Olson's on Sunday, April 4th, since it is Easter Day! See you in May.

SECRET PRAYER SISTER REVEALING TEA

SATURDAY APRIL 10th 3:00 - 4:30 PM

Secret Prayer Sisters, the time has come to reveal who that special sister has been this past year. You are invited to our fourth annual Revealing Tea on Saturday, April 10th at 3 pm at the church. High tea with all the appropriate delicacies will be served. Bring a small gift for your secret prayer sister (minimal expense please). Find out who has blessed you and reveal your identity to the woman for whom you have prayed.

Women who have not been part of the program this year but would like to join are also invited to the Tea. Come learn what it is all about and get to know your sisters in Christ.

To RSVP, please sign up on the sheet above the Secret Prayer Sister basket in narthex where there will also be information about Secret Prayer Sisters. On Sunday April 11, new names of secret prayer sisters for 2010-2011 will be distributed after worship.



Please let Karin OConnor or Janet Fredlund know if you have any card tables, teapots or teacups to lend. Thank you.

BIRTHDAY LIST UPDATE

If your name or that of a family member does not appear on our monthly birthday list, it is probably because we do not have the information in our database. To add a name and birthdate, just call the church office at 508-583-3360 or e-mail to: office@communitycovenant.com.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR NORMA CALHOUN

Sunday, April 11th 3:00 pm

A Memorial Service for Norma Calhoun will be held on April 11th at 3:00 pm at the Wollaston Church of the Nazarene, 37 East Elm Street, Quincy. There will be a time of gathering with the family in the Metcalfe Gathering Room following the service.

Norma Calhoun, the late wife of Dr. Lyal Calhoun, died on January 4. She was a staff member of Eastern Nazarene College. Her husband served Community Covenant Church as interim pastor from 1977 through 1979.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, April 17th 9:00 am

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month. We meet from 9:00 to 10:30 am for refreshments, devotions, discussion, and prayer for one another. All women are welcome from any church or background. Those who regularly attend soon come to feel a bond with each other as well as the blessings of support and encouragement.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

MEET THE KAISERS

Last summer, Mission Ministry Team members met with Daniel and Andrea Kaiser, who are preparing to serve as missionaries to Soroti, Uganda, with their 3 children: Josiah, Ellanora and Zuriya. We were impressed with their vision and their commitment to serve the Lord as a family in this African country. After prayer, reviewing their information and that of their sending organization, International Teams, we decided to recommend support. At our November congregational meeting this was approved. They plan to leave for Uganda in July 2010.

Daniel and Andrea met at North Park University. They each had a call to missions prior to meeting, and now share that call together. The Kaisers have been members of New Community Covenant Church, Chicago, for 7 years. Their Pastor recommends them highly as faithful servants and passionate witnesses of God's mission in the world. "A desire to see people experience the love of Christ simply forms who they are."

International Teams, begun 40 years ago, describes itself as an interdenominational Christian evangelical ministry living out worship and service to God and as relational and strategic, living among those they serve. "Faith is more than a decision. The call to 'follow me' means transformed people building transforming communities. There are no marginalized people in God's kingdom." Today it has 1200 workers of 52 nationalities who serve on 200 teams in 66 countries.

HAITI, a personal view

By Karin O'Connor

We have all heard much, read much, and seen much (TV) about Haiti since the horrific earthquake that hit the country in January. Hundreds of thousands died and many of those were carted off unceremoniously by trucks into mass graves. Haiti has been a suffering place for many years. They received their independence from France in 1802, a country of freed slaves, but were never really free. They remained indentured to France for 145 years, paying off an enormous debt which was 80-90% of their GNP, an amount far greater than the Louisiana Purchase which occurred at the same time and was a far larger piece of land. This is one piece of their poverty that most people are not aware of (I was not). Corruption, bad government and other problems have added to their misery. Most people know that Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. What does a poor country look like?

I had the opportunity to visit Haiti in February and see for myself. I have been to war-torn Liberia (another country founded by freed slaves) in Africa. Haiti was far worse than anything I saw in Africa. I was in a rural area in the north called Milot, which was not affected by the earthquake. But the poverty was awful, housing very poor, roads full of giant potholes, garbage everywhere, children shoeless. Unemployment, I believe, is 80%.

A Haitian nurse wrote me a note in English, "This country has a lot of problems, we don't have any money." Everyone may ask for money, but it is out of desperation. Unfortunately we had to say "no" as there was no way we could meet everyone's needs.

I found the Haitian people to be wonderful, loving, compassionate, and proud. Americans can sometimes come through as bullies (there were a few ugly Americans). Respecting the Haitian culture was emphasized as we worked together to help the earthquake victims brought by helicopter.

I was at the Hopital Sacre Coeur, run by the Crudem Foundation, based in Ludlow, MA, which has existed for 24 years. The hospital went from 70 to over 400 beds. A tent city hospital was set up for the overflow, as Sacre Coeur became the referral hospital for all of Haiti. The helicopters kept coming over the mountains. I worked in a former classroom with 23 patients, most of whom had orthopedic injuries, 1/3 had amputations, others had fractures and crush injuries, most wounds were infected.

I was so impressed by the resilience of the people in difficult circumstances. At night they would sing together. People, although very poor, came with gifts, to share the gospel, to share their care and concern. The patients' families took wonderful care of them, providing all the personal care, sleeping on the floor next to them. If someone did not have family, they would be cared for by another's family. I have rarely seen such care by American families during my career in the USA.

Haiti and its people need our prayers. Please speak up for them when you hear negative comments. God loves them and so should we.



MORE MISSIONS

THANK YOU CARDS RECEIVED

Christmas thanks and New Year's greetings were received from the Bruckner's serving in Alaska and the Prudeks in the Czech Republic. Please see their cards and other mission news posted on the global missions bulletin board.

COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

From website:

As of March 12th, more than \$1 million has been given in support of recovery and rehabilitation work in Haiti. Thank you for your faithful giving!

FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

The following financial update is current through the end of February 2010, and represents the latest figures available as this is written.

Income budgeted through 2/28/10	\$ 44,608
Actual income through 2/28/10	<u>\$ 43,470</u>
Amount under budget (income)	\$ 1,138
Expenses budgeted through 2/28/10	\$ 45,314
Actual expenses through 11/30/09	<u>\$ 44,908</u>
Amount over budget (expenses)	\$ 406

The church financial records were reviewed in February by Carolyn Luther, Robert Bergstrom, Jonathan Price and Peter Vacchi. I am pleased to report that they found the records to be "accurate and in order." Thanks to each of you for your time and expertise in reviewing our financial records.
Dave Sawyer

UPDATE ON PASTOR OLSON'S SABBATICAL

The Leadership Team is considering candidates for Pastoral Supply during Pastor Olson's absence this summer. A vote was taken at the November '09 Congregational Meeting to establish a "Sabbatical Fund," which will be used for pastoral expenses such as supplies, mileage reimbursement and other expenses the church might incur while Pastor Olson is on sabbatical. An estimate of these expenses is about \$5,000. If you would like to give, please designate "Sabbatical Fund" on your contribution.

Please note that this **will not** include any sabbatical offerings toward Pastor Olson's personal expenses. Pastor Olson and Gabrielle have indicated that they **will not accept** any personal sabbatical gifts, as they feel the time off during sabbatical is a "**huge gift from the church.**"

Please speak to Donna Halleran if you have any comments or ideas on how you can help us to prepare for the upcoming sabbatical.

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who prayed for me, sent cards, called on the phone, visited, sent meals and even served us communion. The outpouring of care & love Patty & I felt before during and after my recent surgery was and continues to be overwhelming. I realize the importance of being a part of a loving Christian community (for many reasons) but until I experienced this outpouring of love from so many people, I had no idea how much it would mean to me that I was being thought of and lifted up in prayer by so many caring and compassionate friends. I am so very appreciative.

Dave Sawyer



Dear friends at Community Covenant Church:

Thank you very much for all your thoughtfulness during my recent surgery and illness. I am still healing and the wound has a way to go but with prayer I know I will eventually get there. I want to especially thank those who prepared meals for me, sent lovely cards, telephoned to see how I was doing and kept me in their thoughts and prayers. I want to send my love and gratitude to my "Special Angels" (you know who you are) who took care of my practical needs by changing my sheets, taking me to doctor's appointments and listening to me throughout this saga. I hope to be joining you for worship services soon and then back to choir when everything is resolved. Thank you all so much for everything.

Love, Leslie Baker

Prayer Calendar for April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME EACH DAY TO PRAY FOR THESE PEOPLE, MINISTRIES AND NEEDS						
4 Pastor Olson Sunday School & Staff Children's Church	5 The people of Haiti Mission teams in Haiti "Cosmas World Relief" AA Meeting	6 Rev. Howard Burgoyne, East Coast Conference Superintendent Al-Anon Meeting	7 Choir Charlie Dillingham Susan Ratliff	8 Marion Schall Alice Lovell Marilyn Anderson Bernice Bond	9 People who are: • Homeless • Unemployed • In Need	10 Secret Prayer Sisters Search Process to Hire Child Care Coordinator
11 Pastor Olson Sunday School & Staff Children's Church Pilgrim Picnic and the Capital Campaign Banquet	12 World Peace World Leaders Our US Military: James Adams AA Meeting	13 Missions and Outreach • EB Food Pantries • N.E. Seafarers Mission Al-Anon Meeting	14 Pastor Waa & Jean Matee, Koyuk, AK Bruckners, Alaska	15 Cromwell Children's Home Welcome Baby Project	16 Administrative Assistant: Dorina Costa Prayer Chain Leader: Casdi Keith Confirmation Class	17 Ladies Fellowship Science with a Mission: Alyssa MacLean Health Advocate: Marie Syverson
18 Pastor Olson Sunday School & Staff "What's Your One Step?"	19 Committees: Human Resources Ministry Support Team AA Meeting	20 Leadership Team Al-Anon Meeting	21 Ministry Teams: Sunday School Youth Ministries Facilities Worship & Music	22 Stephen Ministry Leaders Training of Stephen Ministers	23 Ministry Teams: Global Missions Local Missions Faith Community	24 Abuse Victims Advocate National Director: Yvonne De Vaughn
25 Pastor Olson Sunday School & Staff Nursery / Toddler Care Annual Congregational Meeting	26 Barbara Swanson, Missionary to Belgium & The Mosaic Project AA Meeting	27 Prodebs, Czech Republic Andrea & Daniel Kaiser, Uganda Al-Anon Meeting	28 Haworths, Japan Cathy Campobello, Colombia	29 Dr. Jen Hall, Ivory Coast Joe Davis, Sweden	30 Confirmation Class Sara Page, retired Jody LeValin, retired	

THE CORNERSTONE

is a publication of

Community Covenant Church

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Monday—Friday

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Church Staff:

Rev. Donald C. Olson, Pastor

Charles Dillingham, Minister of
Music & Worship

Susan Reilley, Accompanist

Donna Costa, Administrative Assistant

APRIL



COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

400 PLEASANT STREET

EAST BRIDGEWATER, MA 02333