

THE CORNERSTONE

Community Covenant Church

May 2010



From the Pastor's Desk:

“Mission and Values”

“It was God who gave ... so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:11-13

I love this text. It is what we are all moving toward as we follow Christ. It is what we are becoming as Christ's community of believers. God wants us to grow and become fully mature disciples of Jesus Christ. Community Covenant Church's mission statement is an attempt to summarize this Biblical call (you maybe have read it on the back of Sunday's bulletin):

The mission of Community Covenant Church is to glorify God, reach non-believers, and develop all God's children into mature disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our whole ministry is evaluated by this mission statement. We are always asking the question, “Does every ministry and activity of our church help fulfill this mission?” It is how we stay true to the call of God's mission for us as His people.

But we also have certain values that we hold to be true. They are not part of the mission statement but they are values that are important to us as we are fulfilling the mission that God has given to us. Last month, I shared with the Leadership Team what I believe to be four primary values to us as a church. I then shared them in a recent *Inquirer's Class* that I taught. I thought they would be of value (get the play on words?) to share with everyone. We value as part of our mission to be a Christian community that is:

- **authentic** – *real and honest people who know that we are saved by God's grace and therefore can live a life of integrity*

This life of integrity is rooted in the truth that we are all equal in God's creation and need God's grace for salvation. We can therefore be real and not put on a false sense of piety or self-righteousness. We are all welcomed into God's community as people who have sinned BUT God's grace has forgiven us, saved us, and continues to transform us into His people.

- **diverse** – *ethnically, culturally, socio-economically, generationally, male and female - all valued and equal in God's Kingdom*

We reflect Christ and His Kingdom work in the world when we as a community of believers look like and act like God's Kingdom. God's Kingdom includes people of all ethnic, cultural, socio-economic groups, ages, and genders. It takes more effort to be part of a diverse community...listening, understanding, and valuing each other...and it is worth it! God gives us our brothers and sisters in Christ through His saving grace and so we need to embrace each other. If we live this way, the world will see Christ's love in us.

- **relational** – *because we are loved by God, we can love others with Christ-like love*

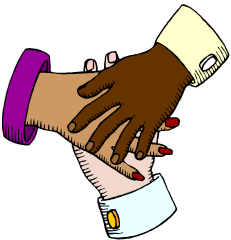
The Evangelical Covenant Church (our denomination) has always been a relational church. We have known the unconditional and healing love of God and therefore we want to live out Christ's healthy love with each other. Jesus Christ came into the world to reconcile us to Him and us to each other.

- **safe** – *where one can explore and discover a vibrant and personal faith in Jesus Christ*

God wants the community of His people to be a safe place (physically, emotionally, & spiritually) where people can “work out their salvation” with Christ. The faith community needs to be a place where everyone is welcome to ask the hard or difficult questions of life and still be loved and accepted as valuable to Christ. This creates an authentic community, giving people the freedom to be at their personal point of faith in their pilgrimage. It is in a safe place that we can grow and mature as Christ's followers.

These are the values that will help us live into the mission that Christ has called us to fulfill. Doesn't this sound like a great church? Wouldn't you like to be part of church like this? Well, you are!

Pastor Don Olson



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAY 2010



Deborah Goucher	2	Deirdre MacLean	15	Kenneth Martin	22
Crystal Coffey	3	Susan Caron	16	Bridget Poku	22
Kyle Snow	10	Lori O'Brien	17	Dan Skinner	22
Marion Schill	11	Theresa Guaraldi	18	Nana Poku	26
Phil Gueli	12	Sue Bolinder	20	Rachael Stewart	27
Hailey Quill	12	Mark Fitzmaurice	20	Esther Garland	29
Norma Callahan	13	Becky Phelan	20	Eric Tattrie	29
Ryan Keith	15	Alexandria Cousin	21		

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 1st 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 29th.

SCIENCE WITH A MISSION

Saturday, May 1st

The SMI Annual Live Auction on Saturday, May 1st will be held at Covenant Congregational Church, North Easton. For information on the work of Science with a Mission, please go to: www.sciencewithamission.org

Deadline to register: May 1st

East Coast Conference Women Ministries

ANNUAL CELEBRATION!

Saturday, May 8, 2010, 9:30-2:00

"CHANGE IS IN THE AIR!"

GET CONNECTED! BE INSPIRED!

Trinity Covenant Church

302 Hackmatack St.

Manchester, CT 06040

Registration, \$25.00 (includes snack & lunch)

For All Women!



(If you are a woman, and reading this, this is for you! Sorry men!) Have you ever wanted to know more about what women in other churches are doing to meet ministry needs? Did you know that there is a national

organization called Covenant Women Ministries? Are you interested in learning more? Community Covenant Church is part of the East Coast Conference Covenant Women Ministries. We have been invited to attend the East Coast Conference Annual Meeting Celebration. If you are interested, please see or call me by May 1st, and let's go together! I would love to bring a group of women from our church!

Beth Stewart (508)944-6930

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, May 15th 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.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 15th at 11:00 am

Speaker: Donna Halleran, Bee Keeper

Come see our updated/changed format

An explanation - Senior Luncheons were originally formatted to accommodate our senior shut-ins who were unable to regularly attend church and partake of communion. With the introduction of our 'spiritual care associates' who take communion to our shut-ins, the time was right to re-evaluate the purpose/format of our senior luncheons. We thought:

- should we make them purely social?
- should we make them educational/informational?
- should we keep the music?

The answer was 'yes' to all three questions.

This spring's senior luncheon will include singing of favorite hymns, and Donna Halleran sharing her interests in beekeeping, honey, soapmaking, etc. Plan now to join us May 15th. Bring a friend.



Sandy Brown

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Sunday, May 16th 12:15 pm



Please come to the library following worship on the third Sunday of the month. Blood pressure screening is offered to help us care for our health.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the June 2010 issue of the CORNERSTONE is May 24th. Items can be dropped off at the church office, or submitted electronically by e-mailing to: office@communitycovenant

If sending by e-mail, please save as word or text document with no formatting. *Thank you.....*

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OFFICE CLOSED

MONDAY MAY 31TH

In observance of the Memorial Day Holiday

MEN'S MINISTRY CABIN AT

PILGRIM PINES:

CHANGE OF DATE - June 4-6

The Men's Ministry of Community Covenant Church is planning on going to Pilgrim Pines the weekend of June 4-6 for our Adopt a Cabin program. As you might remember from last year, our men's group has adopted a cabin in Camp Squanto, the children's campground at Pilgrim Pines. We are responsible for upkeep and maintenance of that cabin before the summer camping session starts each year. If you are interested in participating in any way to this worthy program, be it financial, prayer, labor or otherwise, please speak to Jeff Caylor or John Miltner for information. Thank you from the men of Community Covenant.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR REV. WALLACE CEDARLEAF

Saturday, June 19th

A memorial service for the late Rev. Wallace Cedarleaf, Covenant pastor and Chaplain Emeritus of New England Seafarers Mission, will be held on June 19th at 11:00 am at the First Trinitarian Congregational Church, 381 Country Way, Scituate, MA. Rev. Cedarleaf, who is survived by his spouse, Ethel Cedarleaf, died on Jan. 18, 2010. He served at the New England Seafarers Mission from 1968-1993.

CREATING A WORSHIPFUL SPACE

Because we want to create a time and place in which every person can come and worship God in a meaningful way, we are introducing two new ways to help facilitate this. Our ushers will be requesting two things:

- Approximately five minutes before worship begins, the ushers will come into the narthex/hallway and request everyone to please enter the sanctuary. This will allow us to begin worship on time and minimize the need to enter the sanctuary after we have begun.
- If one arrives after we have begun the announcements (which is the time that worship is scheduled to begin), the ushers will request that you wait at the sanctuary door quietly and you will be seated at an appropriate time. This will minimize the distractions for those in worship who are listening to the announcements and preparing for worship.

Also, we will be saving the last pew or two for late arrivals. We request that you honor the ropes saving these pews for this purpose. This will enable us to seat late arrivals with a minimum of disruption to those who are worshipping.

Thank you for cooperating with the ushers as we gather to worship our almighty and loving God. We believe this will help remind us that we are entering God's sanctuary to worship Him. For God alone is worthy of our worship.

Dana Cheney and Pastor Olson

VBS – HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION

Do you love working with children? Do you have a passion for spreading the good news of God's love? If your answer is yes, we hope you'll consider becoming part of the High Seas Expedition VBS team this summer. This year's VBS will be held during the week of August 2 -6 from 9:00 am to noon. We're excited to be using Group's "High Seas Expedition" curriculum. It promises to be a wonderful week for children as they explore the mighty love of God!

We are still in need of several adult volunteers to lead our Bible Voyage and Clipper Ship Crafts Stations. If you can help out for a day or two or even the whole week, we'd love to have you participate. If you have questions, please feel free to contact VBS co-directors Betti Buzzee (bbuzzee3@yahoo.com) or Ruth Carrigan (rwcarriagan@comcast.net).

GLOBAL MISSIONS

MEET THE KAISERS

[Note: part of this story was omitted from the April 2010 Cornerstone]

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, who met at North Park University, 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.

In Uganda, the Kaisers will be involved in "tent making" ministry to the blind, widows, orphans and victims of The Lord's Resistance Army. Over 30,000 children have been kidnapped as child soldiers and sex slaves, 12,000 have been murdered and 1.8 million have been displaced in Uganda, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Please pray for Andrea, Daniel, Josiah, Ellanora and Zuriya as they prepare to go to Uganda. Pray that they will be 100% funded by May 31. Pray that their hearts will be prepared to love and cherish those they meet in Uganda. Pray for their safety. Pray that the gospel message will change lives in Uganda.

See the mission bulletin board for further information on the Kaisers including a sign up list for people willing to commit to pray for them in 2010.

FROM JOE DAVIS IN SWEDEN

April 1, 2010

"Reaching out to the Chinese"

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Praises to report: Yesterday, Hao -- the Chinese man for whom we have been praying -- gave his life to Jesus Christ! At my colleague Aaron's young adult ministry "The Well," he said that he had just made the commitment to follow Christ, and asked if we could pray for him. And so we got to lay hands on him and pray for him as he begins his new life with Christ. After that, some of our Chinese sisters went up to the piano and sang a worship song in Chinese, and Hao stood up front, worshipping God with his hands held high and his face shining with peace and joy. After the worship service, he spoke with Aaron about baptism and is considering getting baptized this coming Sunday (Easter) along with Annie, the Chinese woman who came to Christ at the Well a few months ago. Thank you for all your prayers for Hao. God has answered them. Please keep him in prayer as he grows in the faith.

WELCOME BABY UPDATE

On Tuesday, April 13, Mabel Sawyer and I delivered 11 gift bags to East Bridgewater families with new babies. We had friendly visits with mothers or grandmothers at most of the homes. It continues to be our experience that people greatly appreciate the church's thoughtfulness. The hand-knit items add an especially personal touch.

HELP WANTED: I am very grateful to have Mabel and Esther Garland's help with making deliveries. I also need two other helpers:

1. a Co-Coordinator who can help me facilitate this outreach.
2. a computer-literate person who can help me organize my records of the visits we have made.

Since July, 2008, we have delivered about 193 gift bags!

Thank you to all who support this outreach through praying, knitting or donating items. *Nancy Ohlen*

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MORE MISSIONS

THANKS FROM PRUDEKS IN CZECH REPUBLIC

Dear friends in Christ,

I know this is very late in getting to you and I'm sorry for procrastinating in writing, but we are, nonetheless, very thankful for your Christmas gift to us!

We are very much looking forward to being back in the US for our first ever, year long, home assignment. We also anticipate visiting you during this coming year, June 2010-June 2011.

Our youngest son will graduate from high school and it will bring to a close the era of having children under our roof. Thank you for your friendship and prayers.

In Christ, the Prudeks

COME HEAR AN UPDATE FROM JOE DAVIS TUESDAY, JUNE 1ST

Joe Davis is a Covenant Short-term Missionary to Sweden. At the end of May, he will make a brief trip to the states to be best man at his friend's wedding. We have an opportunity to hear an update on his work as youth leader at Fisher's Creek International Church. Come to Covenant Congregational Church (204 Center Street, North Easton, MA) at 7:00 pm on Tuesday June 1st.



SABBATICAL UPDATE: "RENEW & REPLENISH YOURSELF KNOWING YOU HAVE OUR BLESSING"

This is the blessing we will focus on at Community Covenant Church during Pastor Olson's 12 week sabbatical. This sabbatical time will be beneficial to both Pastor Olson and the congregation. Such opportunities are intended to enhance physical, emotional and spiritual rest for our Pastor. And it is a prime time for all of us to renew our commitment, to study God's word, to reflect, and to have creative spiritual growth.

In the coming weeks, you will have the opportunity to sign up for one of several small groups that will meet for several weeks during the summer months. Groups will be offered at various times, so you can choose one that fits your schedule. Participants will study Your Pastor's Heart - Serving the One Who Serves You. We ask that you strongly consider joining one of these focus groups because you are an important part of the church family.

Pastor Olson's sabbatical begins in less than 7 weeks. On Sunday, June 13th, we will be having a "Sending Forth" worship celebration followed by an old fashioned church picnic to send the Olson Family off with our blessings. Please make plans to stay for this wonderful time of fellowship!

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please see Donna Halleran or a member of the Leadership Team.

**CHOIR AND
FLOWERS IN
SANCTUARY**

**EASTER
SUNDAY,
APRIL 4, 2010**

*PHOTO BY
SUE BOLINDER*



Prayer Calendar for May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Pastor Olson Sunday School & Staff "What's Your One Step?" Hi-League *1 st Sunday*	3 Janet Cheney Leslie Baker Dave Buzzozz AA Meeting	4 Alice Lowell Pat Gillis Violet Brédes Al-Anon Meeting	5 Choir Charlie Dillingham Susan Reilly	6 People who are: • Homeless • Unemployed • In Need	7 Search Process to Hire Child Care Coordinator Confirmation Class	8 Cromwell Children's Home Welcome Baby Project
9 Pastor Olson Sunday School & Staff "What's Your One Step?" God's Word for God's Children	10 World Peace World Leaders Our US Military: James Adams AA Meeting	11 Missions and Outreach • EB Food Pantries • N.E. Seafarers Missions Al-Anon Meeting	12 "Covenant World Relief" Haiti & Chile Relief Efforts Science with a Mission: Alynn MacLean	13 Pastor Jose Humphreys and Metro Hope Community Church New York, NY	14 Confirmation Retreat 2 nd Year Students Marion Schill Marilyn Anderson Berritoe Band	15 Confirmation Retreat 2 nd Year Students Ladies Fellowship Senior Luncheon
16 Pastor Olson Sunday School & Staff Children's Church 2010 Confirmands	17 Committees: Human Resources Ministry Support Team AA Meeting	18 Leadership Team Health Advocate: Marie Sverson Al-Anon Meeting	19 Ministry Teams: Sunday School Youth Ministries Facilities Worship & Music	20 Stephen Ministry Leaders Training of Stephen Ministers	21 Ministry Teams: Global Missions Local Missions Faith Community	22 Abuse Victims Advocate National Director: Yvonne De Vaughn
23 Pastor Olson Sunday School & Staff God's Word for God's Children Nursery/Toddler Care	24 Barbara Swanson, Missionary to Belgium & The Mosaic Project AA Meeting	25 Prudeks, Czech Republic Joe Davis, Sweden Al-Anon Meeting	26 Haworths, Japan Cathy Campobello, Columbia	27 Dr. Jen Hall, Ivory Coast Andrea & Daniel Kaiser, Uganda	28 Pastor Waa & Jean Mute, Koyuk, AK Bruckners, Alaska	29 Administrative Assistant: Donna Costa Prayer Chain Leader: Candi Keith
30 Pastor Olson Sunday School & Staff Shepherd's Rock Baptism of Atraley Djousse	31 Sara Page, retired Jody LeVal, retired AA Meeting	PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME EACH DAY TO PRAY FOR THESE PEOPLE, MINISTRIES AND NEEDS				

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

MAY



COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

400 PLEASANT STREET

EAST BRIDGEWATER, MA 02333