

September 17, 2013

Issue 2



# GROW the VISION

A Publication of the Community Covenant Church Stewardship Campaign

*"Happiness is not so much in having as in sharing. We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."*  
~Norman McQuen

## IT STILL AMAZES ME

Our church has always demonstrated that kids are important. Teens matter. As a congregation, we have always prayed for our children, devoted resources to nurturing our youth; and we let them know through the sharing of our time and resources that they are loved. Even as I see others in our church family become parents and grandparents, I'm also noticing new families with young children. What an awesome responsibility we have to these families! I can't think of anything more important than continuing to do all that we can to love and support them and make sure they know that God loves them. As we continue to reach out beyond the walls of our church, one way that they will know we are Christians is by the way they see us care for our youth, teens and young adults.

I have 3 adult children. My wife and I did our best to bring them up in a Christian environment. Church and Sunday School were to be a priority. Prayer was to be emphasized. Their participation in youth group activities and summer camp at Camp Squanto was to be encouraged. But we often had our own struggles going on and we fell far short of the bench mark set for "Parents of the Year".

What amazes me is that despite our failings as parents, God answered our prayers. All 3 children are now serving the Lord and on a faith-journey. God brought many godly people into the lives of our kids, not the least of which were youth pastors/directors, camp counselors and Sunday school teachers, to help direct and nurture them in the faith.

Adding a full time young adult & youth pastor to our staff here at Community Covenant is an exciting proposition for me. Patty and I have recently been "promoted" from parents to grandparents. As our children begin to assume the role of parent, we are confident that our grandchildren will be raised in loving Christian homes. As our kids strive to earn that elusive perfect parent award, I'm sure they too will need to rely on the faithfulness of others to help demonstrate the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. None of us can do it alone. The prospect of my granddaughter and many other children growing up in a church that will actively participate in encouraging them in their faith-journey is reassuring. This is an important step in the life of our church and I am pleased that God has called me to be a part of it.

God is at work here in our midst. I encourage all to join Him with your prayers and financial support of **Grow the Vision – Fulfill the Mission**. I believe we will all be amazed at what God will do when we are faithful to Him. It still amazes me.

*David Sawyer*

## SOW BOUNTIFULLY

There is a legend of a man who was lost in the desert, dying of thirst. He stumbled on until he came to an abandoned house. Outside the dilapidated, windowless, weather-beaten shack was a rusted water pump. With all the energy he had left he began pumping furiously, but no water came forth. Slumping down in defeat he noticed a small jug with a cork at the top. A handwritten note was tied to the neck of the jug. It read, "You have to prime the pump with water in this jug, Leave it full for the next."

The dilemma began. Should he pour this small amount of water down the pump or should he drink it hoping it would be enough to save his life? What if the note was not true? What if the pump didn't work? Realizing he would not survive long on the little water in the jug, he proceeded to pour the entire contents down the pump.

Once again, he began to pump with all his energy. Sure enough, the water gushed out! He had all he needed to drink. He filled the jug again, corked it, and added his own words beneath the instructions. "Believe me, it really works. You have to give it all away before you get anything back."

The principle was well stated by the Apostle Paul: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2 Corinthians 9:6)

## FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Nikki Delano and her husband John live in East Bridgewater with their two young children, Izzy and Joey. They live so close to the church that most Sundays they walk! They were visited by the Welcome Baby Project ladies approximately four years ago when Izzy was born. The ladies visited with the Delano's and left one of their care bags. This left an impression with the couple who were still looking for a church to call home. One Sunday they decided to come to Community Covenant Church (CCC) and they felt that the church people were "welcoming without being too pushy." They had been to a few other churches that left them feeling uncomfortable and awkward about the interactions between the parishioners and clergy there.

They started attending our church regularly about three years ago and they knew God was leading them to CCC. Nikki heard God speaking to her through Pastor Olson's sermons. She was also happy to find a place where there were other children Izzy's age. They had visited other churches with no young people or children.

Nikki is excited to be involved. She has recently volunteered to lead the blood pressure screenings in the library the third Sunday of the month. She also is an accomplished (my words, not hers) baker! Who doesn't remember the Sunday that her son Joey was baptized that she made that beautiful cake and cupcakes? She also told me that she knows CCC is special because her husband John wants to be involved and this is the first church since they have been married that she has seen this.

As a newcomer I asked her if she had any advice for our church in welcoming new people and how do we get new people to our church? She suggested putting ourselves out in the community more. She acknowledged the fact that CCC participated in the EB expo last year and that we should explore these types of options. Welcome Baby is what got her and John in our doors and she wonders if there were more door-to-door opportunities for us. Also she likes the idea of a congregation exchange. In addition to the clergy doing their exchange, have the opportunity for members to visit another church.

Nikki has some great ideas and is very creative. She works as a nurse in the oncology field and is also very compassionate. I enjoyed meeting with her and getting ideas from a "new" perspective. I think too often those of us who have been here a while forget what it's like to come as a newcomer! Thanks Nikki!

*Rachael Buckley*

“Depend on it! God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply.”

*Hudson Taylor*

## CELEBRATION MEAL—PLEASE RSVP

**Sunday, October 20**

Immediately following worship on Sunday, October 20, we will enjoy a meal together to celebrate the commitments we have made to God’s work. Our lunch will be a catered buffet, so it is important for us to get an accurate headcount. A sign-up sheet will be available outside the sanctuary. We are asking each of you to respond, even if you are unable to attend, either by signing the sheet or contacting the church office by October 6.

\*\*Gluten-free, nut-free, and vegetarian options will be available for lunch.\*\*

## CELEBRATION FOR CHILDREN

Following lunch, all children through sixth grade are invited to a very special *VeggieTales Party* in the chapel while the adult program takes place. Nursery care will be provided during this time as well.

Please contact the church office (508-583-3360) or Betti and Lindsay Buzzee (508-697-5721) with any questions or concerns.

**Come celebrate what God’s doing here at Community Covenant Church!**



## PRAYER

God’s desire is for us to talk with Him. He waits for us to come to Him with heartfelt prayers. Let us go to the throne with specific prayer requests seeking God’s will to be answered here at Community Covenant for our future growth. A joyful way to start a prayer time is to choose a Psalm and read it out loud. This will energize your spirit. (Suggestion: Psalm 145:1-7) Praise and thanksgiving are Kingdom Keys that open God’s doors allowing us to enter into His presence. He wants to work through us, and with us, not around us.

Will you commit every day to prayer time at either 8 am or 8 pm to join all together in “**unified prayer**” regarding the following petitions?

- That putting God first becomes a priority in each of our lives
- That there is an overflowing of God’s resources to accomplish His will within our church
- A spirit of committed & generous hearts
- A willingness to adjust lifestyles for God’s work here at Community Covenant
- That there is **unified prayer** daily seeking God’s will
- That enough prayer warriors step forward to participate in the 24 hour Vigil
- Unleashing of the Holy Spirit to reveal God’s will and wisdom to the Leaders of our church
- Youth pastor/Christian mentorship for our children and grandchildren

If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1John 5:14

Our prayers will always be effective when we pray in harmony with God’s will and In Jesus’ name. God will honor our faithfulness within our church family when praying for His will to be done here at Community Covenant.